

Hafa Adai!

Man allegedly strangled his GF over FB message. **PAGE 3**
Guam closer to 100% renewable energy goal—GPA. **PAGE 6**

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Tinian divert lease amended

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Lack of notice
disappoints
CPA, Tinian
officials**

The Department of Defense recently notified the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Tinian officials that the existing Tinian divert airfield lease agreement needs to be amended in order for the DOD to implement a certain project, but the short notice given has raised a concern among CPA and Tinian officials.



King-Hinds

Commonwealth Ports Authority board members, as well as Tinian officials, did sign off on

the amendments to the divert airfield lease during a special board meeting yesterday, but they also stressed that the short

See TINIAN on Page 4

Palacios, Cavanagh optimistic about Japan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and acting Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh are optimistic that the CNMI will get more outbound travelers from Japan as the country will soon designate COVID-19 as similar to influenza come May 8 this year.

In a news briefing yesterday afternoon in the governor's conference room, Palacios and Cavanagh also described

See PALACIOS on Page 4



PASEO MAKEOVER

Paseo de Marianas' main walkway, leading to the adjacent Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan, is blocked as the strip undergoes heavy construction as part of the Garapan Revitalization Project, which will transform the district into a walkable and pedestrian-friendly area. This project entails tasks such as paving the streets, construction of sidewalks and curbs, landscaping, installation of new streetlights, planting of trees, building 350 parking stalls, beautification, and more. This project is under the CNMI Office of Planning and Development and Garapan Revitalization Task Force.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Paying for paradise? Hawaii mulls fees for ecotourism crush

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Repairing coral reefs after boats run aground. Shielding native forest trees from a killer fungus outbreak. Patrolling waters for swimmers harass-

ing dolphins and turtles.

Taking care of Hawaii's unique natural environment takes time, people and money. Now Hawaii wants tourists to help pay for it, especially because growing numbers are traveling to the islands to

See PAYING on Page 4

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES VIA AP

In this photo provided by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, department enforcement officers speak to swimmers in Honaunau, Hawaii, March 26, 2023, after the swimmers allegedly harassed a pod of wild spinner dolphins.

**'TOUCHBACK'
COUNTDOWN**
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs believes military visitors will contribute a lot.

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NATION

A Louisville bank employee armed with a rifle opens fire at his workplace, killing five people.

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LIFE & STYLE

Hilary Swank has given birth to twins—a boy and a girl—and shares a photo on Instagram

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Local

CNMI Early Intervention Services briefs Rotary on program

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

With the entire month of April designated as Autism Awareness Month, one of the programs that helps developmentally challenged children in the CNMI brought its message of hope to the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday to spread more awareness of what they do and the services that they offer.

Robin Palacios, who is the director of the CNMI's Early Intervention Services, said they are currently servicing 74 families on Saipan, three on Tinian, and four on Rota, but within just one school year and with just three teachers, they have managed to service a total of 144 families.

"Are we doing it? Yes, we are. How? We are very resourceful and clever," said Palacios. "The child is always the center of our focus."

Palacios, who was joined by another member of CNMI's Early Intervention Services, shared with the Rotary during the club's weekly luncheon yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan the importance



CNMI Early Intervention Services director Robin Palacios and administrative member Nace pose with members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday after their presentation at the club's weekly luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

of the early intervention program and its services to the community.

Despite being short-staffed, Palacios said the teaching and therapy that Early Intervention Services provide aren't watered down, since they are directly following the Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act, or IDEA. She explained that, as a team, they provide highly qualified professionals with licenses and certification to work with individual families, and at no cost to the families, as the program is federally funded.

Palacios also shared that, unlike other states in the na-

tion, and countries, the CNMI's early intervention program is a collaborative effort between the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Palacios shared the importance of development in a child's life from infancy to 3, and that, whether referred

through a health or scholastic organization, or through a concerned parent or grandparent, the program seeks to serve the child in a natural environment and enhance the toddler and infant development, as well as it's family's capacity to meet the child's needs, and they have been doing this for the past 37 years.

"All children that exit our programs would have gained skills and made progress and will be ready to enter the school setting," she said.

Palacios explained that the average age of referral is currently at 18 months and above, but they would like to see even younger children avail of the program. "That is our daily program goal, one of our goals, because the younger the child is identified, the more time you will have to serve and work on development skills with these families."

Palacios further explained the great benefits of joining the program, such as availing of professional help with a

child's development, as well as availing of free resources such as hearing aids, special chairs, etc. that are provided to a child in their care.

She encouraged people to spread further awareness of these available services. "Anyone can make a referral, but we need your help to share our program information with others to help others know about who we are and how we can support families."

For more information on the CNMI Early Intervention Program, call (670) 664-4841, or visit cnmipss.org and read more about the program under "Early Intervention" on the webpage. You can also visit their Facebook page @CNMI Early Intervention or check them at their onsite locations. On Saipan, their headquarters is located across Majesty Restaurant in Garapan. On Tinian, visit the Tinian Health Center and ask for Tessa Diaz. For those on Rota, Martha Barcinas at the Rota Health Center can help.

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Water service interruption in Garapan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, April 14, 2023, affecting Palm Street and Royal Palm Avenue in Garapan.

Time: 7:30am to 5:30pm

Area(s) affected: East of Palm St. between Royal Palm Avenue and Beach Road in Garapan.

Purpose: The scheduled water outage is due to the need to isolate a 6-inch mainline that would require shutting down the gate valves at the intersection of Beach and Palm Street; and at the intersection of Royal Palm Avenue and Palm Street in

Garapan (hotel district area).

Road (s) affected: The contractor will be working on the cross-over pipe of the waterline above the new sewer main (along Royal Palm Avenue) at Palm Street between Royal Palm Avenue and Beach Road. For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Man allegedly strangled his GF over FB message

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man who is being accused of strangling and assaulting his girlfriend over a Facebook message.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed last Monday a \$10,000 cash bail on Vicktus “KC” Tammy, who allegedly assaulted his girlfriend over a Facebook

message she had sent to another man.

Tammy, 27, is facing charges of strangulation, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At his bail hearing, the court appointed assistant public defender Karie Comstock to represent Tammy while assistant attorney general Steven Kessel appeared for the government.

After the bail hearing, Tammy was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody after he failed to post

bail. The defendant will await further court proceedings under DOC custody.

Camacho ordered Tammy to return to court on April 14, for his preliminary hearing; his arraignment was set for April 24.

According to court documents, Tammy allegedly strangled and assaulted his girlfriend after he read a Facebook message that she had sent to another man. The content of the messages were not made available.

When police responded to

the incident, they reportedly observed that the victim’s right eye had a dark discoloration like a bruise and the white inner corner of her right eye had red spot like blood. Police also observed a scratch and a bruise on the woman’s chin and inner right arm. There were also red marks on the right side of her neck, and on top of her head, police said.

The complaint against Tammy stated that he had awakened his girlfriend on Saturday afternoon by slapping her shoulder, as she lay asleep with her two toddlers.

The girlfriend told police that Tammy had read her messages and got upset with the messages she had sent to a male friend. She said she apologized to Tammy, but he pushed her away. Later, she said Tammy hit her head with an iPad.

She said Tammy also punched the right side of her face, making her feel like she was going to pass out. She said Tammy used both his hands to grab her hair and pulled her head from side to side.

The victim said Tammy

would calm down, but then would get riled up again.

The victim told police that Tammy tried to strangle her five times. She claims Tammy’s hands were wrapped around her neck as he pushed her against the wall, making it difficult for her to breathe.

Tammy also allegedly pulled the victim’s hair, grabbed both her arms, and threw her on the bed.

Later, when she had the opportunity to get out of the bedroom, she called for police assistance. She said Tammy apologized because he did not want to get arrested.

3 lawmakers on off-island business trips

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reps. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) and Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan) went off-island for official business trips, while Rep. Malcom Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan) is currently in Washington, D.C. to attend a policy academy pertaining to suicide prevention.

Omar, who chairs the Health and Welfare Committee in the House of Representatives, said yesterday afternoon that he had just arrived in Washington, D.C. as part of the “Governor’s Challenge” to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families.



Yangetmai



Omar



Aldan

Aldan, who chairs the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said he attended the Energy Security Bootcamp conference in Louisville, Kentucky on April 4 to 6. He said he used \$400 from his office funds for the plane ticket, which costs over \$1,800. Aldan said the \$1,400 for the ticket came out of his pocket and that he also paid for his own food, lodging, and taxi.

As of press time, Saipan Tribune was awaiting a statement from Yangetmai.

Last March 23, Aldan informed House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that he will be out of the CNMI on official business beginning April 3 to 7, 2023.

Last March 27, Yangetmai said she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning April 3 to 10, 2023.

Last April 5, Omar said he will be out of the CNMI on official business beginning April 10 to 17, 2023.

In response to Saipan Tribune’s inquiry, Villagomez said yesterday that Yanget-

mai attended the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures board meeting in Korae. Yangetmai is a member of the House Federal & Foreign Affairs Committee. Villagomez said Aldan attended to meetings/event related to utilities or power.


Omar said each “Governor’s Challenge” state will form an interagency military, veteran and civilian team to develop and implement a strategic action plan to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families using a comprehensive public health approach.

See **LAWMAKERS** on Page 4


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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-006

Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project for IF 208, OB 6, OB 19 and OB 23 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of Owner Furnished GAC units, chain link fence removal and installation of new chain link fence, connection of the new waterline to existing waterline, connection of the influent and effluent lines of the GAC units to the existing waterline.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and OIA. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USED A and OIA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-006, Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 25, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.


Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer, Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer, Senior via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 053

Opening Date: Friday, March 31, 2023
Closing Date: Friday, April 14, 2023

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Project Manager (Grants) Executive Director/Grants Office Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$65,000.00 - \$85,000.00 per annum, Exempt Contracted One (1)
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The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Project Manager. Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Manage employees by providing appropriate direction and ongoing feedback, delegating tasks, prioritizing work, and conducting performance reviews.
- Participate in monthly, taking notes and tracking action items.
- Lead weekly grant project meetings and provide updates on grant project status, next steps, and recommendations.
- Complete weekly project status briefings for the Executive Director
- Assist in the development of spreadsheets to track possible funding sources for clients.
- Identify any necessary research.
- Develop and manage deadline-based checklists based on funding solicitation requirements.
- Communicate effectively and respond to email in a timely fashion.
- Coordinate the communications schedule and set up client meetings.
- Hold grant writing team accountable for interim and final deadlines.
- Guide the grant writers in developing the necessary content for the grant application on time by answering questions, reviewing language, interpreting requirements, and advocating for their needs.
- Compile grant forms accurately and on time per funder requirements.
- Develop and format grant budgets, narratives, and other supporting application documents.
- Create templates for clients (letters, Memoranda of Understanding, etc.)
- Monitor all grant materials and request changes to ensure that they strictly adhere to funder requirements.
- Coordinate quality control checks and review all grant materials.
- Package and submit properly completed and timely grant applications per funders’ requirements.
- Consult with funder program officers as needed.
- Attend webinars and trainings and report findings back to the Executive Director
- Keep the team up-to-date on project progress, and report any delays in a timely fashion
- Ensure that all application documents are uploaded and filed on SharePoint upon completion.
- Assist in any post-award grant revisions and conduct debrief to share feedback on unfunded grants.
- Other tasks to support the grant writers, staff, and clients as necessary.
- Perform other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor’s degree in business administration, Public Administration or directly related field and 6 years of grants related work experience and 3 years of management experience preferably in grants management; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

Skill In: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested, and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
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CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Magofna: Manila, San Diego trips weren't junkets

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that she wants to be clear that the ASEAN Gaming Summit she attended in Manila and the Indian Gaming Conference in San Diego weren't junkets, as claimed by her critics.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about her back-to-back gaming trips, Magofna said there were no personal enrichment other than to gather a deeper understanding of the feasibility of gaming within the CNMI's economic makeup, as well as establish a network with industry leaders, regu-



Magofna

lators, and vendors.

Magofna chairs the Senate Resources, Economic Development & Programs & Gaming Committee.

After attending the ASEAN Gaming Summit in Manila last March 21-23 with six other lawmakers, Magofna then attended the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention in San Diego, California, last March 27-30.

Magofna noted yesterday that she invited the committee members, including non-members, to join her on both trips.

"And I will defer to each member to explain their reason for why they did or did not attend the conference with me," she said.

The senator said she is aware of the negative perception associating with gaming and that she recognizes that the casino industry here is tainted and questionable. However, Magofna said, she is optimistic and hopeful that the CNMI can still make gaming work.

She said the Commonwealth Casino Commission must amend and implement stricter regulations and put tighter controls in place that would mandate operators to operate in a more responsible and accountable manner.

The senator said it is critical and of utmost importance that enforcement agencies play a key role in ensuring that all regulations are complied with at all times.

PAYING

From Page 1

enjoy the beauty of its outdoors—including some lured by dramatic vistas they have seen on social media.

"All I want to do, honestly, is to make travelers accountable and have the capacity to help pay for the impact that they have," Democratic Gov. Josh Green said earlier this year. "We get between nine and 10 million visitors a year, (but) we only have 1.4 million people living here. Those 10 million travelers should be helping us sustain our environment."

Hawaii lawmakers are considering legislation that would require tourists to pay for a yearlong license or pass to visit state parks and trails. They are still debating how much they would charge.

The governor campaigned last year on a platform of having all tourists pay a \$50 fee to enter the state. Legislators think this would violate U.S. constitutional protections for free travel and have promoted their parks and trails approach instead. Either policy would be a first of its kind for any U.S. state.

Hawaii's leaders are following the example of other tourism

hotspots that have imposed similar fees or taxes like Venice, Italy, and Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. The Pacific island nation of Palau, for example, charges arriving international passengers \$100 to help it manage a sprawling marine sanctuary and promote ecotourism.

State Rep. Sean Quinlan, a Democrat who chairs the House Tourism Committee, said changing traveler patterns are one reason behind Hawaii's push. He said golf rounds per visitor per day have declined 30% over the past decade while hiking has increased 50%. People are also seeking out once-obscure sites that they have seen someone post on social media. The state doesn't have the money to manage all these places, he said.

"It's not like it was 20 years ago when you bring your family and you hit maybe one or two famous beaches and you go see Pearl Harbor. And that's the extent of it," Quinlan said. "These days it's like, well, you know, 'I saw this post on Instagram and there's this beautiful rope swing, a coconut tree.'"

"All these places that didn't have visitors now have visitors," he said.

Most state parks and trails are currently free. Some of the most popular ones already charge, like

Diamond Head State Monument, which features a trail leading from the floor of a 300,000-year-old volcanic crater up to its summit. It gets 1 million visitors each year and costs \$5 for each traveler.

A bill currently before the state House would require nonresidents 15 years and older visiting forests, parks, trails or "other natural area on state land" to buy an annual license online or via mobile app. Violators would pay a civil fine, though penalties wouldn't be imposed during a five-year education and transition period.

Residents with a Hawaii driver's license or other state identification would be exempt.

The Senate passed a version of the measure setting the fee at \$50. But the House Finance Committee amended it last week to delete the dollar amount. Chair Kyle Yamashita, a Democrat, said the bill was "a work in progress." The bill has been scheduled for a House floor vote on Thursday.

Dawn Chang, chair of the state Board of Land and Natural Resources, told the committee that Hawaii's beaches are open to the public, so people probably wouldn't be cited there—and such details still need to be worked out.

King-Hinds noted that yesterday was the deadline to sign off on the amendment to the lease agreement, but CPA and the Tinian municipality were only given notice about it late last week.

"CPA does recognize the urgency because if this document is not signed, it stands to significantly delay the project. We're not interested in delaying DOD's projects; that's not the point. Obviously the people of Tinian support this activity, but the issue basically is I'm sure there was someone aware that an amendment was required to the lease and the fact that it was delivered at the last minute, and then we're expected to act on it immediately, that's highly problematic because this is not how things should be done," she said.

King-Hinds briefly explained that the amendment basically asks for easement rights to be included in the existing lease.

"This basically is to ensure that pipelines can be properly laid out and that there's easement for utility," she said.

In addition, another amendment to the lease includes a provision requiring the DOD to clean up any and all contamination found that didn't exist prior to the enactment of the divert airfield lease agreement.

"One of the concerns is this baseline study that has been updated shows that there's oil contamination as well as other unknown substances. So one of the things this amendment to the lease does is it requires DOD to clean up whatever contamination didn't pre-exist at the time of the lease. This amendment incorporates that," she said.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, who was also present at yesterday's special board meeting, shared King-Hinds' sentiment.

"I don't see a problem with the amendments. The issue is the manner in which DOD is routing these documents. We're a little disappointed because we were given like a week to sign something so important. However, we are in support of the project itself," he said.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios talks about his recent trip to Japan as acting Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh, right, and acting MVA managing director Judy Torres listen during a news briefing at the Governor's Office conference room yesterday afternoon.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

their recent four-day trip to Japan as "very fruitful."

"I am very optimistic that things are [going to] start improving for the Commonwealth. Its [going to] take a little while because Japan is just starting to restart their outbound travel," Palacios said.

Cavanagh said the whole trip was very fruitful and, with the promotions that the MVA is doing now and with three direct United Airlines flights per week, the bookings are actually doing great now.

"We are already seeing the fruits of our labor of this promotion," Cavanagh said. "It was a busy trip. We hope there will be major results come out of it."

Palacios said they went to Japan to talk with tourism partners, from the airlines to major travel agencies, as well as with government officials that are critically important and play major roles in trade, tourism, and commerce.

"This is an effort to kind of try to jumpstart the Japan market," Palacios said.

The governor said that Japanese arrivals were fairly low even before the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to other markets, hence the need for the Marianas to aggressively market the destination.

"We went ahead and took four days of extensive meetings. We met with the U.S. Embassy. The embassy itself has a commerce desk and we needed to touch base with them to see what kind of assistance and what tips that they can give us when we talk with tourism partners in Japan," he said.

Palacios said they also paid courtesy visits to some important individuals who in the past helped the CNMI's tourism industry.

Most of these visits were intended to reinvigorate the Japanese market, he said.

The governor said Japan is just starting its outbound tourism as CO-

VID-19 was an issue and continues to be an issue for the Japanese travelers, but domestic travel in Japan has already recovered and is already robust.

It's the outbound international travel that is way behind, so that's what the Japan government is trying to incentivize and jumpstart, he added.

"The key points of what we want to do to reconnect with all our partners to see what we can do, what they can do to reinvigorate and improve the tourism arrival from Japan and what we need to do as a destination," he said.

Cavanagh echoed Palacios that the Japan domestic travel industry has already recovered because both the national government as well as the provincial governments of Japan have been subsidizing it and will continue subsidizing it until this July.

She said the Japanese are traveling domestically because it's so highly subsidized.

Come May 8 this year, though, Japan is actually going to change the COVID-19 category to that will put it in a category that's more like an influenza, Cavanagh said.

"What that means is all these restrictions as far as vaccinations, to taking tests, and everything will go away," she said.

Cavanagh said it's going to be an open-door policy where the Japanese will be able to travel to a foreign destination and return and not worry about long lines at the airport or having to take the test.

"We're kind of hoping that because it is happening on May 8, that we will be receiving more outbound," she said.

Cavanagh said Palacios also mentioned the possibility that the outbound travel will be subsidized by the national government in Japan.

"So that's one of the other reasons why he talked with Japanese officials. Because there is a program where they are subsidizing or helping with the outbound travel, and we hope that the CNMI will be on top of their mind," she said.

TINIAN

From Page 1

amount of time DOD gave was disappointing.

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, who is from Tinian, was one of those who spoke out against DOD's failure to provide ample time to engage the Tinian community about the lease amendments.

"When we're talking about accountability and transparency, that requires public notices and giving the people meaningful opportunity to respond. The issue with the divert lease is not substantive. I think the concern is basically that there wasn't proper notice that was given and there was not enough opportunity to engage the community and give them notice that this was happening. It's our responsibility to the community, especially the community of Tinian, who is directly impacted, to inform them of these changes whether they are small or big. It's our duty," she said.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 3

Omar said Community Guidance Center director Joe Kevin Villagomez invited him to the academy. He said Villagomez was tasked by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to lead this effort for the CNMI in strategically forming the Commonwealth's state team.

Omar said he has been working with the team since last month, attending the Pre-Policy Academy site visit on Saipan and now with the in-person policy academy taking place in Washington D.C. on April 11 to 13.

He said the event is hosted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Guam closer to 100% renewable energy goal—GPA

The Guam Power Authority is optimistic about its goal of achieving full renewable energy capacity sooner than expected, according to utility leadership who spoke at the Guam Clean Energy Transition Symposium on Monday, April 10, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Guam's target for renewable energy is to achieve 50% by 2035 and 100% by 2045, as stated in Public Law 35-46. The goal is to reduce the island's dependence on imported fossil fuels and promote the adoption of clean and renewable energy sources. According to GPA, the island will achieve 50% renewable capacity by 2030.

"We are going to push to get to 50% five years before P.L.

35-46," said John Cruz, GPA assistant general manager for Engineering and Technical Services.

GPA is a partner of the UOG CIS and the Guam Green Growth (G3) initiative.

GPA general manager John Benavente's presentation also highlighted the energy projects that will enable Guam to reach the halfway point soon, including the commissioning of the Mangilao solar farm and the grid-scale 40-megawatt Energy Storage Systems in Hagåtña and Talofofo. These projects are all integrated into the island's Clean Energy Plan (Integrated Resource Plan), according to Benavente.

"We are now in the expansion stage. We are now introducing more renewables and getting the infrastructure in place," Benavente added.

The success of these initiatives also requires community support, according to Cruz.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said the government's renewable energy programs are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the G3 Action Framework.

"Our administration and GPA share a common goal of meeting one of the sustainable development goals by ensuring access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy for all by leveraging federal investments in efficient and clean energy models and making urgent action to combat climate change and



its impacts," she said at the symposium.

Leon Guerrero added that GovGuam policies are keeping up with global trends and practices that built up the is-

land's clean energy transition.

Around 100 participants attended the renewable energy symposium.

The conference runs through April 15 and will

feature presentations and sessions focusing on the theme "Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance." The conference will also promote discussions about innovations and strategies that will collectively move Guam toward a sustainable future. (UOG)



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero attends the Guam Clean Energy Transition Symposium on Monday, April 10, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The symposium was one of the pre-conference events at the 14th University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on Monday, April 10.



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Recycled materials are converted into an archway at the 14th University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on Monday, April 10, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

2 NMI businesses support Red Cross Walkathon

The 34th annual Red Cross Walkathon on April 22 recently received major support from Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Bridge Capital LLC.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan

has donated 250 Waterpark passes that will be given to all participants who raise \$75 or more on their pledge form, while Bridge Capital donated \$1,500 cash for the same event.

"We are always so grateful and humbled by the generosity of our business community here in the CNMI. Without their support, the Red Cross would not be able to invest

in improving the wellbeing of our families through Red Cross programs," said John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Dennis Seo and some PIC staff present 250 waterpark passes to American Red Cross representatives to support the Red Cross Walkathon.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Capital LLC managing director Bart Jackson and office manager Julie Duenas present a \$1,500 donation for the NMI Chapter in support of the Red Cross Walkathon. Also pictured: disaster volunteer Triana Palemai, ARC board member Patty Palacios, ARC board member Brent Deleon Guerrero, ARC executive director John Hirsh, ARC board member Bobby Cruz, and business operations manager Selmalyn Taitano.

USCIS issues webinar invitation to CNMI employers



KHS JROTC SPRING BREAK CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Forty-six cadets of the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion, along with their Army instructors, gathered during spring break on Tuesday, April 4, to tackle a beach cleanup at Bantalan Beach. The cleanup lasted from 9am to 11am. Fifteen bags of rubbish were collected from the cleanup. After the cleanup, the beach was left spotless and cleaned for the community and tourists. Following the cleanup, KHS cadets had a barbecue lunch at the beach.

Employers may file H-2B petitions for FY 2023 late second half returning workers

Starting April 13, 2023, USCIS will begin accepting petitions for workers for the late second half of fiscal year 2023, requesting employment start dates from May 15, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023 under the H-2B supplemental cap temporary final rule.

The 10,000 visas made available under this allocation are limited to returning workers who were issued H-2B visas or held H-2B status in fiscal years 2020, 2021, or 2022, regardless of

country of nationality.

These supplemental visas are available only to U.S. businesses that are suffering irreparable harm or will suffer impending irreparable harm without the ability to employ all the H-2B workers requested in their petition, as attested by the employer on a new attestation form.

On Dec. 15, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor jointly published a temporary final rule increasing the numerical limit (or cap) on H-2B nonimmigrant visas by up to 64,716 additional visas for all of FY 2023. Of the 64,716 additional visas, 44,716 are available only for

returning workers (workers who received an H-2B visa or were otherwise granted H-2B status in one of the last three fiscal years).

The remaining 20,000 visas are set aside for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (collectively called Northern Central American countries) and Haiti, who are exempt from the returning worker requirement. As of April 10, 2023, USCIS has received petitions requesting 11,537 workers under the 20,000 visas set aside for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. USCIS is continuing to accept H-2B petitions under this allocation.

Petitions requesting sup-

plemental allocations under this rule must be filed at the California Service Center. Petitions filed under the supplemental allocations in this rule at any location other than the California Service Center will be rejected and the filing fees will be returned.

Additional information on the FY 2023 supplemental visas is available on the Temporary Increase in H-2B Non-immigrant Visas for FY 2023 page. (USCIS)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services invites employers of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Transitional Workers (CW-1) and other interested parties to participate in a webinar on Thursday, April 20, 9:30am to 10:15am, Chamorro Standard Time. During this webinar, USCIS representatives will provide information about eligibility for CW-1 employers and employees, the petition process, and review the CW-1 semiannual reporting requirements, as filed on the Form I-129CWR, Semiannual Report for CW-1 Employers.

To register:

1. Visit our registration page.

2. You will be asked to provide your email address and select "Submit."

3. On the next screen, you will see a notification that you successfully subscribed to this event.

Once we process your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details. If you have any questions, or if you have not received a confirmation email within three business days, email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

To request a disability accommodation to participate in this engagement, email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov by 4pm Eastern on Wednesday, April 12. (USCIS)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 17th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"CHCC INPATIENT ROOM RENOVATIONS
(COORDINATION, OVERSIGHT, MONITORING AND CONSTRUCTION)
FOR CHC HOSPITAL / INPATIENT DEPARTMENT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Open call to writers for monthly write-in

Come to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 10am to 12pm for the monthly write-in of the Marianas Writers Movement. We've moved the write-in from the last Saturday of the month because of coming austerity measures (and the library closing one Saturday every two weeks).

This is an opportunity to write with others, side-by-side, in parallel inspiration and encouragement. Write your journal. Write your family history. Write your stories novels, poems, or letters. There is no better way to leave a legacy of your experiences and life stories than through writing them down for future generations. Bring your notebooks and pens, or laptop or other writing device and write with us. Bring your thermos of coffee or bottle of water. And see how much you can get written (or revised) in two hours! (PR)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-011	CDBG-DR Housing Supervisor (1-Position) Re-announcement	UNGRADED \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 Per annum	April 2, 2023	April 18, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Tels: (670) 233-9447
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233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)
March 21, 2023

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Annual Community Assessment (ACA) Report for Program Year 2021 is available for review.

The Report contains information regarding the CNMI's performance in addressing and fulfilling the Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant requirements.

The report is available on NMHC's website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)" menu tab and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review the report must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-9447/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The nursing workforce needs more men

O years, the U.S. could face a shortage of up to 450,000 nurses. The health-care system won't be able to fill this gap with half the potential workforce on the sidelines: More must be done to recruit men into nursing.

Men currently comprise about 12% of nurses, up from less than 3% in 1970. Boosting their number would not only ease shortages, but offer a pathway to good jobs for a demographic that has been exiting the workforce in alarming numbers in recent years. Employment growth in some traditionally male sectors, such as manufacturing, has all but vanished.

Yet men traditionally haven't entered nursing because, much like teaching, it's stigmatized as a female profession—the term “male nurse” is a case in point. Men in nursing tend to be career-switchers, and often include former members of the military, police officers and firefighters. In short: civic-minded workers drawn to the six-figure salaries, career progression and flexible schedules, with the added bonus of not having to sit behind a desk.

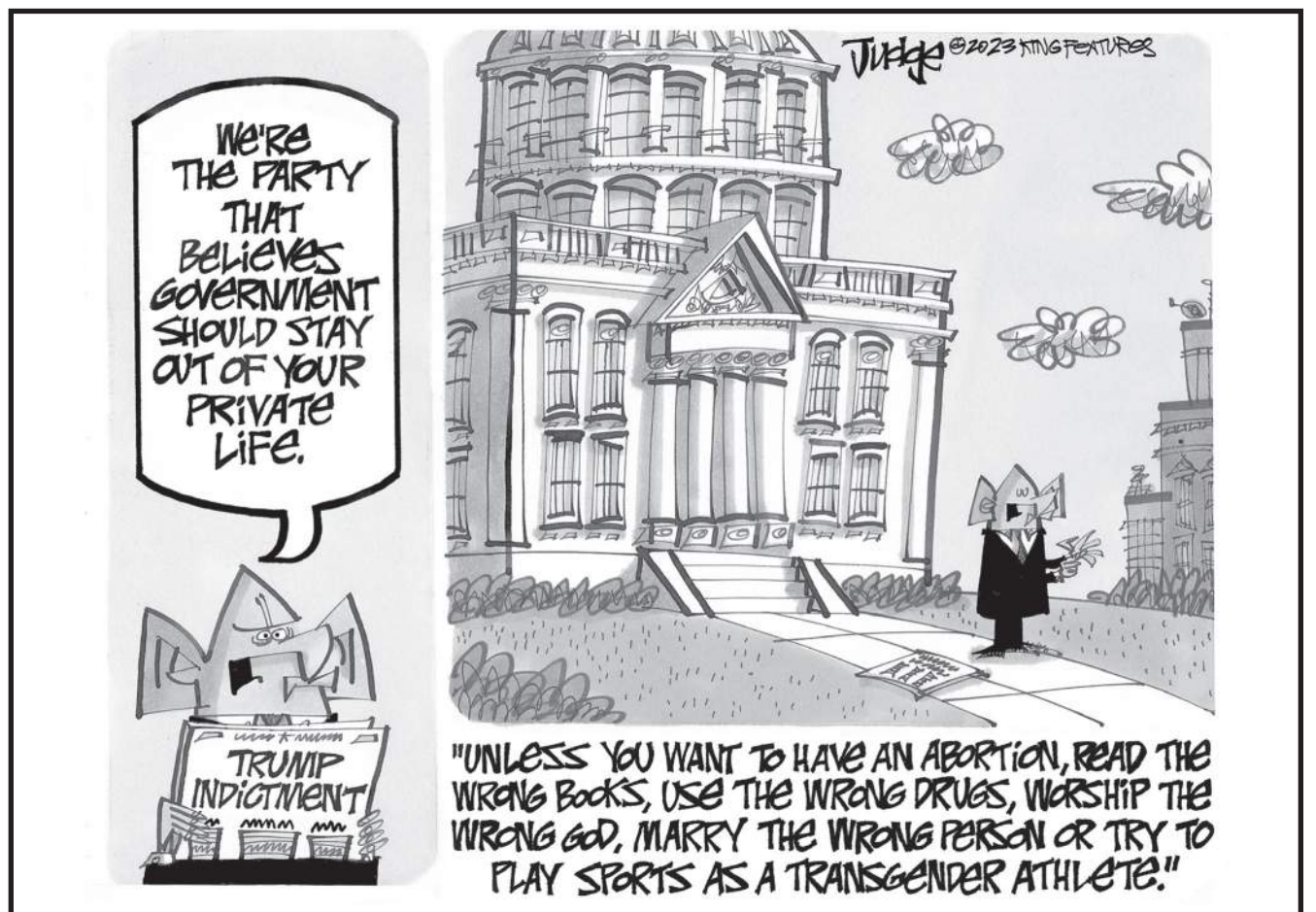
Recruiting more of them could have pronounced benefits. Ample research suggests that diversity in the health-care workforce improves care. Studies have shown that visits are longer and patients are more satisfied when they share the same race or ethnicity as their provider, which can have a cascade of positive effects including improved communication, deeper trust and stricter adherence to medical advice. Evidence that patients prefer same-gender providers is also starting to emerge.

The needs among the patient population can't be overstated. Native American, Black and Hispanic men experienced the biggest declines in life expectancy during the pandemic and remain among the least represented demographics in the nursing workforce. Male school nurses (and teachers) are also at the frontlines of a burgeoning teen mental-health crisis: Adolescent boys are both less likely to seek treatment and more likely to die by suicide. The American Psychological Association has long identified the need for gender-specific care for teen boys, who might have a harder time confiding in women.

Although addressing the nursing shortage has strong bipartisan support, increasing male representation has been largely absent from discussions. That's a mistake. To start, lawmakers should follow the tested model of encouraging women in STEM. Recent legislation, for example, directed the National Science Foundation to channel more of its K-12 funding to elementary and pre-K-age students to encourage STEM careers earlier in the pipeline. Similar efforts should be made for nursing, not least because a recent NSF report on diversity expanded the definition of STEM to include health-care workers. Some nursing schools engage middle- and high-schoolers in their communities to reduce stigma and highlight nursing as a viable career path; they should make every effort to include male faculty and nursing students as role models. Although it might prove politically unpalatable, targeting scholarship funding and loan-forgiveness programs to male nursing students would also make sense.

Of course, men aren't immune to the broader forces driv-

See **NURSING** on Page 9



Where's the best place to ride out the next cataclysm?

The apocalypse is not nigh, as I have long maintained, but what about a cataclysm? I am talking about a sudden and extreme violent event: Just last month, an asteroid big enough to destroy a city passed between the Earth and the moon. The possibility of a nuclear exchange is greater than it has been in decades. Scientists are still studying the global impact of last year's eruption of a super volcano in the South Pacific.

If you fear that America is going to face a cataclysm of some sort soon, you may ask yourself where you should you ride it out. I have a counterintuitive answer: If you live in a dense urban area, stay put—especially if, like me, you live in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

The biggest advantage of the Washington region is that, in the case of a real catastrophe, it would receive a lot of direct aid. It's not just that Congress and the White House are nearby—so are the Pentagon, the FBI, the CIA and hundreds if not thousands of government agencies. Insofar as there might be an emergency response to a cataclysmic event, the Washington area will be prioritized.

The region also has plenty of hospitals and doctors, and a wide variety of law enforcement units—including the various federal agencies as well as police from Maryland, Virginia and D.C. If you care about order being restored, Washington will be better than most places.

Of course, a counterargument is that Washington is more likely than most places to be hit by a cataclysmic event, especially if it involves a nuclear exchange or some other weapon of mass destruction. But there's “good news,” scare-quotes intended: If a foreign enemy is truly intent on targeting America's capital, the conflict may be so extreme that it won't matter where you go. (If I were a foreign power attacking the U.S., Washington would not be my first choice as a target, as it would virtually guarantee the complete destruction of my own country.)

I realize that my advice runs counter to the usual recommendation of getting a cabin in some remote area of the American West. And it's true that you could go there with a shotgun and be safe from looters and the risk of civil unrest. Still, when it comes to getting food or medical care, not to mention internet service, I would rather be in a densely populated area. People usually pull together in times of extreme need, so I would want

By **TYLER COWEN**
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. He is coauthor of Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.



to be near more people, not fewer people.

Another common answer to the where-should-I-go question is to leave the U.S. entirely and buy a second home or a bunker in New Zealand. New Zealand has some great advantages: It's relatively safe, has a lot of water, and could be self-sufficient in agriculture and food. Its relative isolation could be a real benefit if there were a nuclear exchange.

Nonetheless, I consider the New Zealand option to be overrated. Remember, the country closed itself to foreigners during the COVID-19 pandemic—might it do the same in response to a sudden cataclysmic event? And even if it were open to foreigners, getting there could be difficult.

But the problem is not merely logistical. If there is a collapse of some degree of civil and economic order, then informal social networks will become even more crucial—not just for companionship but possibly for survival. New Zealanders are generous—I used to live there myself—but the notion that they would welcome some rich American stepping off his private jet ... let's just say that might not go so well.

The history of humankind features plenty of catastrophic events. Maybe they were not as objectively bad as what I am postulating, but they were extreme misfortunes nonetheless. And one way people dealt with these events was to move to cities and centers of population density. Except during pandemics, economies of scale and scope have typically proved to be protective of human beings.

So for the 4 out of 5 Americans who live in the cities or suburbs, there is some qualified good news: If you're worried about a cataclysm, the best thing to do may be simply to stay put.

‘People usually pull together in times of extreme need, so I would want to be near more people, not fewer people.’

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

AI-proofing your career starts in college

The job market has never offered any guarantees. Mechanization wiped out once-secure careers in manufacturing. Now artificial intelligence (AI) is coming for a future generation of jobs that had seemed safe, starting with software coding and back-office work. So what can we do about it?

Despite some hyperbolic fears, there are reasons to be optimistic about the future of technology. It has the potential to bring a better quality of life and more widespread prosperity—eventually. To prosper in this future, workers will need new skills and a different education. And that means rethinking how we approach college and what we want it to provide us.

Most college degrees pay off not only in higher wages but because they mean graduates are less likely to be unemployed, or will be unemployed for less time. Evolving technology in the late 20th century put a higher premium on more education, leading more people to go to college. The share of the population over age 25 with some post-secondary education doubled between 1980 and 2021 to more than 60%. This increased the supply of graduates and also shrunk the wage premium for college degrees.

More people going to college also means more bad outcomes: more dropouts and more degrees that don't pay off. Meanwhile, the price of education has skyrocketed. So no surprise that many people are asking if college is even worth it anymore.

It is. In fact, with new technology coming our way it will be more valuable than ever.

If the past is any guide, thriving in an age of technological innovation requires being adaptable and finding different ways to add value. For example, machines that could weave cloth at scale displaced many workers, but master craftsmen who made exceptional-quality goods still had jobs. Other people had to learn how to work a machine. It was not an easy transition; there was a lot of social upheaval and displacement. How we educated the population changed to suit the new economy and it took several decades for workers to adapt. Industrialization is a big reason why we adopted universal public education.

Today's technology arguably poses more challenges because

some white-collar jobs will disappear, too. So far, large language models like ChatGPT are good at synthesizing existing information to make a decent argument or find a solution to problems. The technology will only get more powerful, though its creative abilities will likely be limited.

Psychologist Gerd Gigerenzer argues that AI is better suited to tasks where risks are well defined and the parameters are stable, like playing chess. It's less good at dealing with problems where there is more uncertainty. We'll face more of the latter because data and knowledge from the past tells you little about a fast-changing future. Past data can even be misleading. Gigerenzer thinks human judgment will remain critical, and the value might even be super-charged for people who learn to use the new technology properly.

Interpersonal skills will also be prized. High-touch human time will be the rarest of commodities. Most importantly, thriving will require constantly learning new things and adapting swiftly because we don't know how new technology will unfold.

In short, success will come to those who know how to think and think well. This means students must hone their critical thinking skills as part of their education.

Getting that out of a college degree requires two things: different expectations and class selection on the part of students, and for universities and colleges to revamp their approach to curriculums. Even before AI, society struggled to figure out what a post-secondary education should provide. American universities and colleges were originally intended to be liberal arts institutions that aimed to make well-rounded, thoughtful leaders. In contrast to the European model where students specialize early, American students were meant to get a more cursory exposure to many different fields.

This was reasonable when a small share of the population went to college and it wasn't too expensive. But as more people pursued higher education and costs rose, the expectation changed. Students wanted a more vocational and career-focused education and were less interested in reading Plato. Meanwhile, colleges and universities stopped doing either job well. Many students struggle to apply their degree to the job

By **ALLISON SCHRAGER**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Allison Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, she is author of *An Economist Walks Into a Brothel: And Other Unexpected Places to Understand Risk*.*



market, and the education they get has become less rigorous. One study found little improvement in critical-thinking skills during the first few years among 45% of students.

There are ways to make any college major more practical or to integrate the humanities, says Preston Cooper, a fellow at the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity who has researched the value of degrees. For instance, high-return degrees such as nursing could include more liberal arts classes. More traditional humanities majors like history could include marketing and communications courses. This would impart both hard skills and broader thinking ability, and students would enter the labor force more employable and adaptable.

In the short run, it will fall on students to challenge themselves and take the initiative to make their college education more AI-proof. They need to seek out the classes that make them think more rigorously, including math, and probability and statistics. Then balance those with humanities where they'll learn history and how to write well. (AI may do more writing for us in the future, but knowing how to write well helps clarify and organize your thoughts.) Students should develop a reading list that allows them to explore the great minds of the past and contemplate how to apply their insights to current times.

Face it, harder classes will mean a lot more work and may mean worse grades. But it will be the best insurance students can get from whatever change technology is going to be throwing at them. This is how they can get greater value from their degree—and in the new economy it will be more valuable than ever. The sooner they get started the better.

Fly to Mars? Maybe. But why?

Last week NASA announced the names of the four astronauts who will crew Artemis II, a 10-day mission planned for November 2024. The expedition will boost humans out of an Earth-bound orbit for the first time since 1972 and put them into orbit around the moon, in preparation for subsequent missions that will include lunar landings.

Experienced astronaut Christina Koch, who will be the first woman to reach the moon, is thinking beyond the lunar surface. During her 328-day stay at the International Space Station, she read aloud from a children's book titled "Hey-Ho, to Mars We Will Go."

Visionary Elon Musk isn't bothering with the moon. He has announced his goal to colonize Mars by establishing a city of 1 million people on the Red Planet by 2050.

In some respects, travel to the moon and other planets seems logical and thoroughly consistent with our history. Civilization has often been driven by the inherent human instinct to explore, discover and colonize, then to exploit, exhaust and move on. It's the most natural thing on Earth.

But what about in space? Does it make sense to assume that this historical pattern can or should be maintained?

On the other hand, if our ancient ancestors had entertained such doubts, would humans ever have left their caves? Or crossed the Atlantic, conquered the New World and pushed our American frontier all the way to the West Coast?

Assuming that these were all good things—a pretty big assumption—it still may not follow that the moon and Mars are logical stepping stones for humankind's advancement to the stars and beyond.

For one thing, we humans evolved to live in a particular and perhaps unique niche in the universe. It's easy to imagine that the Earth is a fit place for us to live because it has the resources—water, air, food—that we need to survive. But,

really, it's the other way around. We live here because we evolved out of and along with the resources that were available, and it's not clear how much sense human life makes outside of the rarified place that produced it.

When he set sail from Europe, Columbus didn't know what was on the other side of the Atlantic, but he was pretty sure that the resources in the so-called New World—water, land, spices, gold—would be the things that humans need and want. Can we be as sure about Mars, which, compared to North America, is a truly alien world?

Visionaries such as Musk imagine that humans will develop the technologies needed to survive on Mars, and they may be correct. But a million people on Mars? Why?

Here are a couple of dubious rationales for going to Mars: First, as our growing population inevitably pushes the Earth closer to the limits of its resources, whether we say it aloud or not, we've come to think of Mars as a safety valve or a lifeboat, a place where humankind can continue after we've exhausted our planet. But this unpromising proposition should be treated with considerable skepticism. And it doesn't address the larger question of whether it's possible to be human in any meaningful way so far outside the niche in which we evolved.

Second, one thing that hasn't changed since Columbus is the connection between human exploration of space and competition among nations to get there first. Once we were frantic to beat the Russians into space. Now we're more likely competing against the Chinese. But planting the flag for God and country was never a very good reason to explore uncharted lands.

Skepticism about sending humans into space is not antiscientific. Columbus had to cross the Atlantic to see what was here, but our ability to explore remotely has grown tremendously. In fact, the real secrets of our universe are on such an

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



unimaginably immense scale and distance that they can be more effectively and efficiently explored without having to take humans along.

Could humans learn to live on Mars? Maybe. Wouldn't it be better to learn to live on Earth first?

NURSING

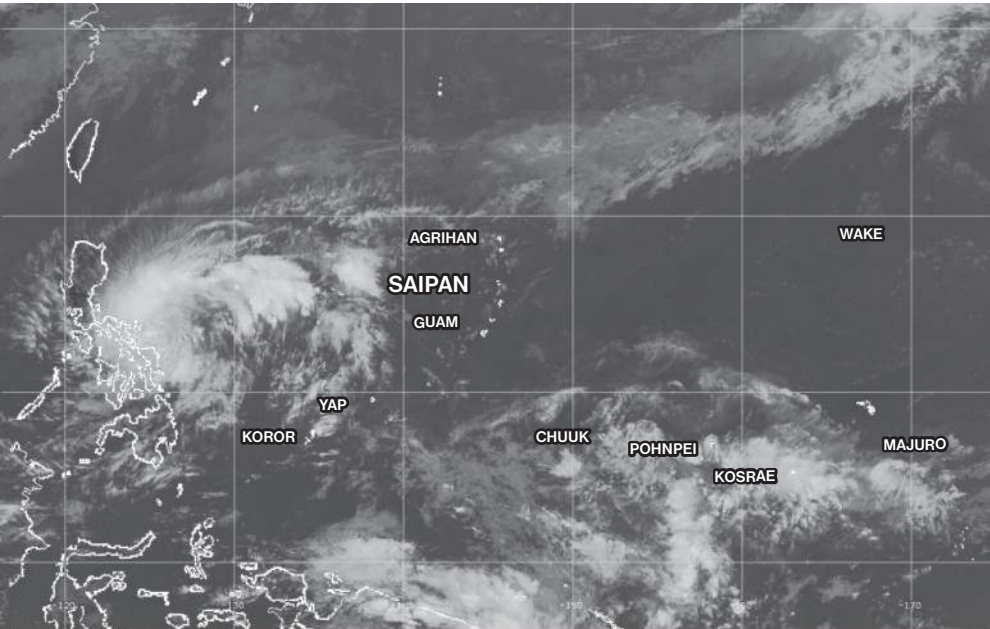
From Page 8

ing the nursing shortage. In particular, nursing schools are so resource-strapped that they turn thousands of qualified applicants away each year. State and federal efforts to boost the number of nursing instructors, increase stipends (and forgive loans) for doctoral students, and broaden access to training facilities (in person or online) need to be accelerated.

Yet a renewed focus on recruiting men can only help. Bringing men to parity in the field would add some 3.5 million nurses today. Hitting even a fraction of that figure would be a significant milestone and improve the lives of millions of Americans. It's a long-term investment the industry can justify.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Partly cloudy		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	78°	87°	77°	86°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, with isolated showers mostly in the Rota waters and northern Guam waters. Ritidian buoy has seas at 3 to 4 feet, and altimetry has combined seas at 5 to 6 feet to our far east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:42 AM	-
Thursday	-	12:23 AM	11:44 AM
Friday	-	1:21 AM	12:48 PM
Saturday	-	2:15 AM	1:51 PM
Sunday	-	3:04 AM	2:52 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	76° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Fog	73° / 54°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°	
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°	
Osaka	Rain	68° / 45°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°	
Busan	Sunny	67° / 48°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	95° / 69°	
Salem	Cloudy	86° / 72°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	60° / 46°	
Seoul	Sunny	60° / 34°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 51°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	77° / 54°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:04 AM	High Tide	1.75	
6:07 AM	Low Tide	1.38	
10:39 AM	High Tide	1.74	
6:34 PM	Low Tide	-0.17	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA		ROTA TO SAIPAN	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM		GUAM TO ROTA	
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN		TINIAN TO SAIPAN	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

CBMA: Military has a lot of residual income

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the military market won't be enough to compensate for the loss of Chinese tourists, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs believes military personnel visiting the islands—be it for training or rest and recreation—will contribute a lot to the local economy.

"I know that the governor has mentioned his pivot away from the Chinese market. But it's not totally abandoning the Chinese market, but it's just that we're emphasizing the military because the military has a lot of residual income," said CBMA special assistant Daniel Aquino during his presentation last Wednesday at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Aquino, who himself is a military veteran and used to run the CNMI Museum, added that local businesses stand to benefit a lot from the CBMA and Joint Region Marianas' Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Quality of Life program.

MWR gives local businesses a chance to partner with JRM to sell its products and services to military personnel in Guam.

"[Especially] when we have our ships coming in. These guys have been on sea for months, so they're looking for places to spend their money. So part of the MWR program is for these vacation packages to happen on Saipan. And that's why I'm advising every one of you guys: You have to market your business. I cannot

promise that every one of your businesses are going to benefit economically, it's how you sell your business," he said.

Aquino went on to enjoin Chamber members to register their businesses with the CBMA so they can immediately pass it on to JRM in time for the upcoming Innovative Readiness Training from July 9 to 22.

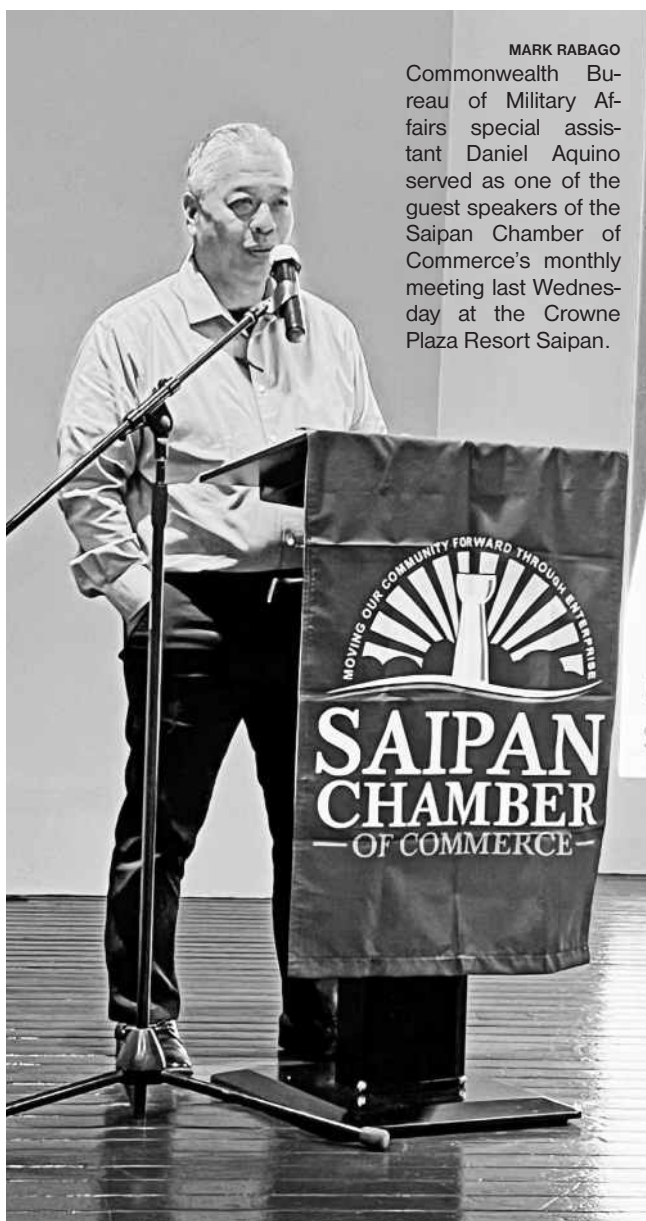
"One of the ways we can do this is if you register in our office so we can provide a list as a heads up with a JRM. We've already had businesses that we've been reaching out to as part of the list. The list includes businesses like food, restaurants, entertainment, and stuff like that," he said.

Aquino added that the Chamber should work closely with CBMA so both local businesses and the military could come up with win-win solutions when it comes to their needs.

"I think what I'll do from now on is that if there's any wants or needs from the military, we'll give it to the Chamber of Commerce. So any businesses that have warehouses and businesses that sell unique stuff, we can channel that into every U.S. Department of Defense component."

Aquino also shared to Chamber members that military personnel almost exclusively use credit cards for their purchases and encourages businesses that don't have credit card machines to acquire them.

"From what I've gathered is that they operate through their cards. They use their cards for purchases. I'm not here to tell you how to run your business. I'm not here to tell you how



MARK RABAGO
Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs special assistant Daniel Aquino served as one of the guest speakers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting last Wednesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

to market your business. The only thing that matters is the military's requirements as far as spending and one of the main things that they utilize are [credit] cards...And like I said, in the military they only use their cards. So go to the bank and don't come to my office and ask for a credit card machine."

He added that PayPal is an alternative for credit card

machines and businesses like Angry Penne, one of his favorites, has that option available for military personnel.

Micronesian Environmental Services' John Gourley, however, said getting credit cards may not be a good option for small businesses.

"Bottomline is it's not worth it if you only have purchases come in three times a year or four times a year...Credit card

machines are great for companies that are selling food items, but for items that are not sold as often there is a problem of getting expensive [credit card machine]," he said.

The CBMA special assistant also said companies that want to secure contracts with the military should register under the System for Awards Management.

SAMS is a government website where businesses can register if they want to do business with the U.S. government. Those who want to apply for a federal grant or federal assistance must register with SAMs otherwise their business entity is deemed unofficial and not business worthy with the federal government.

Aside from the IRT three months from now, Aquino envisions a slew of other military activities set in the CNMI.

"We've already submitted applications to the U.S. Navy when it comes to requests for more port visits. More training

exercises are also happening north of Saipan in Marpi."

As a parting note, Aquino asked the community to cut the military some slack and through the CBMA, he would like to help grow the economy by cultivating a stronger relationship between the U.S. Armed Forces and civilians.

"So let me just say this first. I know that there's a lot of reservations about the military. When someone hears about the military, they think 'oh, we're gonna bomb the crap out of Pagan. That's not true. The military has already stopped pursuing that issue. What we're trying to do now is to try to facilitate. The governor and the lieutenant governor are more concerned about the economy. And how we're trying to pursue this is through staycation packages. That was one of the meetings that we had with [the Marianas Visitors Authority] to try to provide some of the costs for the military to come here?"

New Bank of Japan head says banks stable, rules out major policy shift

TOKYO (AP)—The new governor of Japan's central bank signaled Monday that he plans no drastic changes in its ultra-low interest rate policy, sticking to earlier messaging on the topic.

Bank of Japan Gov. Kazuo Ueda said Japan's financial institutions are not facing the sorts of turmoil seen recently with bank failures in the U.S. and Europe. He pledged to do his utmost to maintain stability in both prices and financial systems in the world's third-largest economy.

"Markets have calmed and, as far as the impact on the Japanese system, we have maintained the easy monetary policy, and there is ample capital and fluidity," Ueda said.

Japan's central bank is seeing its first leadership change in a decade, at a time when inflationary pressures around the world remain a risk and central banks are fighting back with big interest rate increases meant to slow economic activity.

Ueda is taking over what many see as the unfinished work of his predecessor, Haruhiko Kuroda, whose second five-year term ended over the weekend.

Kuroda presided over a decade-long monetary stimulus program centered around zero or minus long-term interest rates to nurture

economic activity. Japan's benchmark rate has been at minus 0.1% for years. By keeping credit cheap, the aim is to encourage banks and consumers to spend more, spurring economic growth.

The BOJ's approach has increasingly diverged from the actions of the U.S. Federal Reserve and the world's other central banks.

A shift toward less lax monetary policy would be tricky given the massive holdings of Japanese government bonds the BOJ has acquired as it sought to keep interest rates low and inject money into the economy.

Ueda acknowledged that in the long term, the central bank may need a "comprehensive review" of its strategy to assess the appropriate time to move toward what he called "a more normal" monetary policy.

Kuroda kept Japan's target for inflation at 2% in hopes of ending a longstanding trend toward deflation, or falling prices.

That made little headway until the war in Ukraine and rebounding demand after the pandemic sent energy prices higher, a sore point for energy-scarce Japan, which imports almost all its oil. Prices in Japan have been rising at an annual rate of about 4%, or even more.

Australia suspends WTO case against China on barley tariffs

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia suspended a complaint to the World Trade Organization in a bid to reopen the Chinese market to Australian barley for the first time in three years in the new government's latest step toward repairing relations with Beijing.

China effectively closed its doors to Australian barley in May 2020 by imposing an 80% tariff after the previous Australian government angered Beijing by calling for an independent inquiry into the origins of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous conservative government responded by challenging the tariff in the Geneva-based trade body.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said her

center-left Labor Party government, which was elected in May, had reached an agreement with China that "creates a pathway for the resolution of the dispute over Australian barley."

China had agreed to review its duties on the grain over three or four months, she said, and Australia will temporarily suspend the WTO dispute during that review period.

"Obviously, if the duty is not lifted at the end of the review period, we'll resume our dispute in the WTO," Wong said.

The Chinese Embassy in Australia did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Wong said the Chinese review offered a "significantly shorter time frame" to resolve the dispute than the

WTO offered.

Official and unofficial trade barriers are costing Australian exporters an estimated \$14 billion a year in products including beef, seafood and wood. Trade Minister Don Farrell said Australia hoped the review would become a template for resolving other trade disputes with China, particularly over wine. While barley growers have found other markets, Australian wine producers have struggled to find alternative buyers after China imposed trade barriers in late 2020.

Australia has denied China's claims that it was subsidizing wine to export it at artificially low prices.

Grain Producers Australia, which represents barley

exporters, welcomed the new agreement.

"This process to reach a resolution would be significantly shorter than if the WTO process continued," Grain Producers Australia chair Barry Large said in a statement.

"We welcome the Labor government's constructive dialogue and positive progress towards stabilizing the relationship with China, and creating this process and opportunity to recommence the barley trade," Large said.

In February, Australian and Chinese trade ministers held their first bilateral meeting since 2019, showing signs of improved relations since the previous government was voted out after nine years in power.

Nation

Louisville bank employee livestreamed attack that killed 5

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A Louisville bank employee armed with a rifle opened fire at his workplace Monday morning, killing five people—including a close friend of Kentucky's governor—while livestreaming the attack on Instagram, authorities said.

Police arrived as shots were still being fired inside Old National Bank and killed the shooter in an exchange of gunfire, Louisville Metro Police Department Chief Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel said. The city's mayor, Craig Greenberg, called the attack "an evil act of targeted violence."

The shooting, the 15th mass killing in the country this year, comes just two weeks after a former student killed three children and three adults at a Christian elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee, about 160 miles (260 kilometers) to the south. That state's governor and his wife also had friends killed in that shooting.

In Louisville, the chief identified the shooter as 25-year-old Connor Sturgeon, who she said was livestreaming during the attack.

"That's tragic to know that that incident was out there and captured," she said.

Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Insta-



Multiple agencies arrive at a building after a shooting took place in Louisville, Ky., Monday, April 10, 2023.

gram, said in a statement that it had "quickly removed the livestream of this tragic incident this morning."

Social media companies have imposed tougher rules over the past few years to prohibit violent and extremist content. They have set up systems to remove posts and streams that violate those restrictions, but shocking material like the Louisville shooting continues to slip through the cracks, prompting law-

makers and other critics to lash out at the technology industry for slipshod safeguards and moderation policies.

A man who fled the building during the shooting told WHAS-TV that the shooter opened fire with a long rifle in a conference room in the back of the building's first floor.

"Whoever was next to me got shot — blood is on me from it," he told the news station, pointing to his shirt. He said he fled to a break room

and shut the door.

Nine people, including two police officers, were treated for injuries, University of Louisville Hospital spokeswoman Heather Fountaine said in an email. One of the wounded, identified as 57-year-old Deana Eckert, later died, police said Monday night.

One of the wounded officers, 26-year-old Nickolas Wilt, graduated from the police academy on March 31. He was in critical condition after being shot in the head and having surgery, the police chief said. At least three patients had

been discharged.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said he lost one of his closest friends in the shooting.

"Tommy Elliott helped me build my law career, helped me become governor, gave me advice on being a good dad," said Beshear, his voice shaking with emotion. "He's one of the people I talked to most in the world, and very rarely were we talking about my job. He was an incredible friend."

Also killed in the shooting were Josh Barrick, Jim Tutt and Juliana Farmer, police said.

"These are irreplaceable, amazing individuals that a terrible act of violence tore from all of us," the governor said.

Beshear spoke as the investigation in Louisville continued and police searched for a motive. Crime scene investigators could be seen marking and photographing numerous bullet holes in the windows near the front door of the bank, not far from Waterfront Park and minor league ballpark Louisville Slugger Field.

As part of the investigation, police descended on the neighborhood where the suspect lived, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) south of the downtown shooting. The street was blocked as federal and local officers talked to residents. One home was cordoned off with caution tape. Kami Cooper, who lives in the neighborhood, said she didn't recall ever meeting the suspect but said it's an unnerving feeling to have lived on the same street as someone who could do such a thing.

"I'm almost speechless. You see it on the news but not at home," Cooper said. "It's unbelievable, it could happen here, somebody on my street."

Deputy Police Chief Paul Humphrey said the actions of responding police officers undoubtedly saved lives.

Leaked documents a 'very serious' risk to security: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP)—The online leaks of scores of highly classified documents about the Ukraine war present a "very serious" risk to national security, and senior leaders are quickly taking steps to mitigate the damage, a top Pentagon spokesman said Monday. And as the public airing of the data sends shockwaves across the U.S. government, the White House said there are concerns there could be additional leaks.

Chris Meagher, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, told reporters that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin first became aware on Thursday that a number of classified briefing slides detailing the U.S. military efforts in the Ukraine war and intelligence involving other nations were leaked.

In the days since, Austin has reached out to allies, held daily meetings to assess the damage and set up a group not only to assess the scope of the information lost but review who has access to those briefings. The department is looking closely at "how this type of information is distributed and to whom," Meagher said.

A defense official who

spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters said the Pentagon has now taken steps to reduce the number of people who have access to those briefings. The official said the Pentagon regularly reviews access lists to weigh who has a need to know and have access to classified material.

At the White House, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby was asked if the U.S. was bracing for more online releases.

"The truth and the honest answer to your question is: We don't know," he said. "And is that a matter of concern to us? You're darn right it is."

Kirby said at this point, "we don't know who's behind this, we don't know what the motive is."

And he said as U.S. authorities go through the documents that were posted online, they are still trying to determine their validity, but have found that at least some of the papers "have been doctored."

He and others would not go into detail, but at least one of the documents shows estimates of Russian troops

deaths in the Ukraine war that are significantly lower than numbers publicly stated by U.S. officials. Under a section titled "Total Assessed Losses," one document lists 16,000-17,500 Russian casualties and up to 71,000 Ukrainian casualties. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said publicly last November that Russia has lost "well over" 100,000 soldiers, and Ukraine had lost about that many also. And those estimates have continued to climb in recent months, although officials have stopped providing more exact numbers.

At the State Department, spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters Monday that U.S. officials "are engaging with allies and partners at high levels over this, including to reassure them of our commitment to safeguarding intelligence and the fidelity of securing our partnerships."

The U.S. officials declined to provide any specifics, including about the expanse of the release, how it happened and to which country leaders the U.S. has spoken. Patel added that there is "no question" the documents' release present a risk to national security.

Biden kicks off Easter egg roll with talk of reelection bid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Not even the annual White House Easter Egg Roll is safe from presidential politics.

President Joe Biden, the host of Monday's festivities on the South Lawn, said he plans to participate in "at least three or four more Easter egg rolls, maybe five."

Biden was alluding to his expected reelection bid, but when pressed for news by Al Roker of NBC's "Today" show, he gave no ground. The president repeated what he's been saying for months.

"I'm planning on running, Al, but we're not prepared to announce it yet," Biden told Roker.

After making an early appearance on the lawn to speak with Roker after the gates opened at 7 a.m., Biden and first lady Jill Biden addressed the crowd from the White House balcony before joining the "egg-citement." Some 30,000 people, mostly children, were expected, in nine waves of participants, ending at 7 p.m.

"Anything's possible in America," Biden said in

brief remarks welcoming guests to the South Lawn, "if we remember who we are and we do it together."

Biden and the first lady then went to the lawn, each one blowing a whistle to kick off egg-rolling competitions. Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug, applauded as another group of children coaxed dyed, hard-boiled eggs to the finish line in a separate area.

Jill Biden later visited the "reading nook," where she read "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" to the parents and children gathered there, including Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The first lady's grandson Beau Biden held the book while she turned the pages.

Her final stop was the talent stage and a performance by the cast of the Broadway musical, "The Lion King." They performed "Circle of

Life" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

"The Lion King has amazed and enchanted kids and grown ups alike," she said to introduce the cast. "And now they're bringing their magic to the Easter Egg Roll."

She watched the performance off stage and shook hands with cast members and posed for a photo as they exited.

The first lady's theme is "EGGucation." Jill Biden is a teacher and she has incorporated numerous learning opportunities into the event. "Learning doesn't only happen in a classroom, there are so many fun opportunities to learn around us every day," she said in her remarks on the balcony, explaining that's why they turned the South Lawn into a "school community."

The White House Easter Egg Roll dates to 1878, when President Rutherford B. Hayes opened the White House lawn to children after they were kicked off the grounds of the U.S. Capitol.

Asia

US, PH hold largest war drills

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United States and the Philippines on Tuesday launch their largest combat exercises in decades that will involve live-fire drills, including a boat-sinking rocket assault in waters across the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait that will likely inflame China.

The annual drills by the longtime treaty allies called Balikatan — Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder — will run up to April 28 and involve more than 17,600 military personnel. It will be the latest display of American firepower in Asia, where Washington has repeatedly warned China over its increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed sea channel and against Taiwan.

The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in a possible confrontation over Taiwan.

That dovetails with efforts by the Philippines under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to defend its territorial interests in the South China Sea by boosting joint military exercises with the U.S. and allowing rotating batches of American forces to stay in more Philippine military camps under a 2014 defense pact.

About 12,200 U.S. military personnel, 5,400 Fili-

pino forces and 111 Australian counterparts are taking part in the exercises, the largest in Balikatan's three-decade history. America's warships, fighter jets as well as its Patriot missiles, HIMARS rocket launchers and anti-tank Javelins, would be showcased, according to U.S. and Philippine military officials.

"We are not provoking anybody by simply exercising," Col. Michael Logico, a Philippine spokesman for Balikatan, told reporters ahead of the start of the maneuvers.

"This is actually a form of deterrence," Logico said. "Deterrence is when we are discouraging other parties from invading us."

In a live-fire drill the allied forces would stage offshore for the first time, Logico said U.S. and Filipino forces would sink a 200-foot (61-meter) target vessel in Philippine territorial waters off the western province of Zambales this month in a coordinated airstrike and artillery bombardment.

"We will hit it with all the weapons systems that we have, both ground, navy and air," Logico said.

That location facing the South China Sea and across the waters from the Taiwan Strait would likely alarm China, but Philippine military officials said the ma-

neuver was aimed at bolstering the country's coastal defense and was not aimed at any country.

Such field scenarios would "test the allies' capabilities in combined arms live-fire, information and intelligence sharing, communications between maneuver units, logistics operations, amphibious operations," the U.S. Embassy in Manila said.

Washington and Beijing have been on a collision course over the long-seething territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines and four other governments and Beijing's goal of annexing Taiwan, by force if necessary.

China last week warned against the intensifying U.S. military deployment to the region. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in a regular news briefing in Beijing that it "would only lead to more tensions and less peace and stability in the region."

The Balikatan exercises were opening in the Philippines a day after China concluded three days of combat drills that simulated sealing off Taiwan, following Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's meeting with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy last week in California that infuriated Beijing.

North Korean leader vows 'offensive' nuclear expansion

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to enhance his nuclear arsenal in more "practical and offensive" ways as he met with senior military officials to discuss the country's war preparations in the face of his rivals' "frantic" military exercises, state media said Tuesday.

The meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Military Commission on Monday came amid heightened tensions as the pace of both the North Korean weapons demonstrations and the U.S.-South Korean joint military drills have intensified in recent weeks in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the commission's members discussed unspecified issues related to strengthening defense capacities and perfecting war preparations to counter the threat posed by the allies' drills, which the North portrays as invasion rehearsals.

Kim reviewed the country's frontline attack plans and

various combat documents and stressed the need to bolster his nuclear deterrent with "increasing speed on a more practical and offensive" manner, KCNA said.

The report did not specify the directions the North intended to take. KCNA also published photos of Kim talking to officials while pointing to certain spots on a blurred map that appeared to be of South Korea.

KCNA said Kim and the military commission members analyzed the security situation on the Korean Peninsula "in which the U.S. imperialists and the (South) Korean puppet traitors are getting ever more undisguised in their moves for a war of aggression" and discussed preparation for proposed military actions that their enemy has no way of counteracting.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries conducted their biggest field exercises in years last month and separately held joint naval and air force drills involving a U.S. aircraft carrier strike group and nuclear-capable U.S. bombers. KCNA claimed the drills simulated an

all-out war against North Korea and communicated threats to occupy Pyongyang and decapitate its leadership.

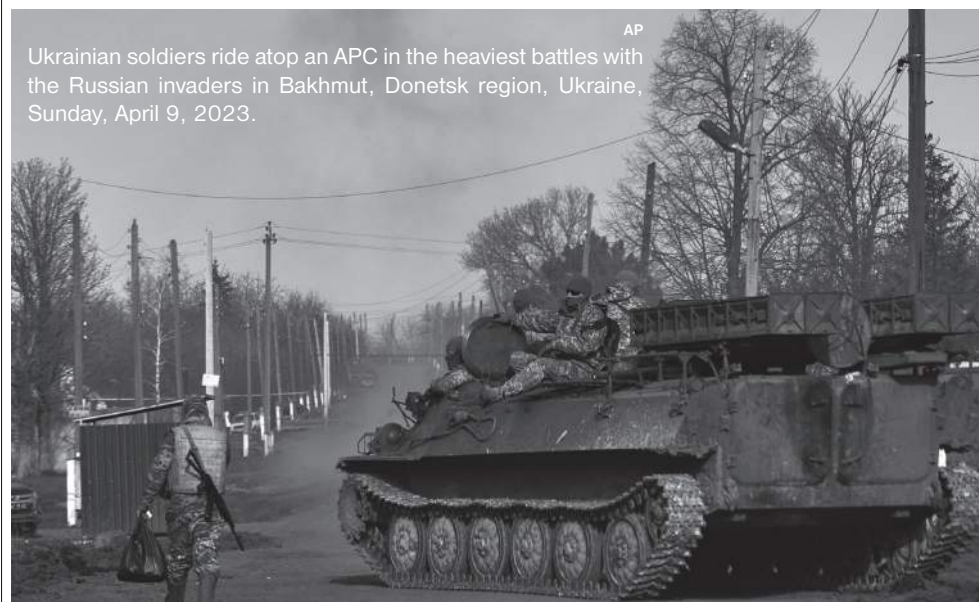
The United States and South Korea have described their exercises as defensive in nature and said that the expansion of those drills are necessary to cope with the North's evolving threats.

Tensions are likely to be prolonged as the allies continue their drills and North Korea uses them as a pretext to advance weapons development and intensify military training involving its nuclear-capable missiles.

The North Korean report came as South Korean officials said the North did not respond to South Korean calls placed over inter-Korean liaison and military hotlines for the fifth consecutive day. South Korean officials say North Korea cut off communications after the South last week urged the North to stop using without permission South Korean assets left at a now-shuttered joint factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong.

World

Ukraine, Russia exchange 200 plus troops in prisoner swap



AP
Ukrainian soldiers ride atop an APC in the heaviest battles with the Russian invaders in Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Sunday, April 9, 2023.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—More than 200 Russian and Ukrainian soldiers have returned home in a prisoner swap, the warring countries said Monday.

Russia's Defense Ministry said 106 Russian soldiers were released from Ukrainian custody as part of an agreement with Ukraine.

Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, said that Russia freed 100 Ukrainian prisoners.

Neither announcement mentioned whether any intermediaries were involved in the agreement.

Some of the Ukrainian soldiers have severe inju-

ries and illnesses, Yermak said in a statement published on Telegram.

He added that the latest of the sporadic prisoner swaps in the war that started in February 2022 was "not an easy one." He did not elaborate.

Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War alleged that almost half of the 80 men and 20 women soldiers who returned home "have serious injuries, illnesses or have been tortured." It presented no evidence for its claims.

According to Ukrainian news reports, one of the women prisoners is Valeriia Karpilenko, a border guard

who had helped defend Mariupol's Azovstal steel plant. Last May, she married a Ukrainian soldier in the steel plant's basement while Russian forces surrounded the complex. Her husband was killed three days later.

The freed Russians were being flown on military transport planes to Moscow for medical treatment and rehabilitation, the Defense Ministry said.

Such exchanges represent one of the few areas of cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. The two sides have returned hundreds of each other's soldiers, as well as the bodies of fallen troops, since the war began.

In first 100 days, Brazil's Lula aims to revive his legacy

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva finishes the first 100 days of his third term as Brazil's president on Monday and his return to power has been marked by efforts to reinstate his social policies and undo his predecessor's legacy.

Lula unseated Jair Bolsonaro by a razor-thin margin last October. He and his team announced plans to hit the ground running. Then, a week after Lula's inauguration, Bolsonaro supporters stormed government buildings in capital Brasilia, hoping military intervention would remove the leftist from power.

Quelling unrest while staving off potential coups was a challenge unseen by any president since Brazil's return to democracy over three decades ago, and it has overshadowed the efforts of Lula's administration since then.

Lula, who governed between 2003 and 2010, started his third term faced with the stiff challenges of achieving

his goals of eradicating poverty and hunger while preventing economic slowdown.

To the extent that he has ushered in change since Jan. 1, that has entailed reactivating policies from past Workers' Party administrations: The cash-conditional Family Grant welfare program, the My House, My Life housing program, and the More Doctors initiative to expand medical care.

"Other governments inherited an organized state; Bolsonaro disorganized the state. Everything needs to be redone," Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo, said. "Even so, the government hasn't presented a (new) project."

Lula has blamed Bolsonaro for the challenges faced by his government, whose official slogan includes the word "reconstruction." Before taking power, Lula commissioned and publicized a detailed report on the government's debilitated state. On March 17 on Twitter, Bolsonaro

remarked that governing is very easy for Lula: "just undo what Bolsonaro did."

"I am not used about talking about the first 100 days of the administration," Lula said during a ceremony at Brazil's presidential palace on Monday to recognize a date with symbolic significance in this and many other nations. "But I think it is important to remind you that, in 2003 I took over from a democratic president, which did not happen now."

Lula successfully rallied lawmakers and Supreme Court justices in defense of democracy and began executing a strategy to remove the armed forces from politics. Almost three months later, he has made inroads with a vastly pro-Bolsonaro military and garnered some support in Congress. He also received a nod from moderates and business leaders for his finance minister's proposed fiscal rules to address recurring budget deficits; the government aims to zero the primary budget deficit by the end of next year.

Good Housekeeping

9 tips to separate remote ‘work’ from ‘home’

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

As home and work have converged for many, it can be challenging to discern how to separate the two. How do you avoid having home feel like “the office” while still creating an environment that feels like home? Where is the work-life balance?

Here are some recommendations for designing an ideal blend of work and relaxation under the same roof.

1. Create a separate area for work. Ideally, this should be a separate room. If you can’t, creating a work “zone” that is separate and distinct from other activities will help.
2. Take frequent breaks during the day. Once in the morning, once around lunch and once before the end of the day is ideal.
3. Spend some time outdoors. Taking time for a

- breath of fresh air will help instill a sense of calm.
4. Infuse soothing colors to inspire serenity. Pure white, neutrals and soothing blues are a good place to start.
 5. Incorporate greenery and other natural elements. Trees and plants can go a long way in helping a space feel modern and fresh.
 6. Use as much natural sunlight as possible, or infuse as much light as possible into a space. Sunlight can help increase serotonin in the brain.
 7. Consider incorporating scent or fragrance. A calming effect can come from soothing the senses through aromatherapy.
 8. Experiment with mirrors. Mirrors reflect light and can act like windows in a space.
 9. Use wood and wood-like elements. This can help ground a space and make it feel cozy.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Trees and plants can go a long way in helping a workspace feel modern and fresh.

2023’s top colors for painting your home office

By HUNTER BOYCE
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A new year means a new look. With more people working inside of their homes than ever, now is the perfect time to consider giving that home office a new coat of paint. But don’t just recoat it. Give it a new personality by using one of this year’s top home office paint color trends.

Hale Navy by Benjamin Moore

If you are looking for the best of both worlds, Hale Navy by Benjamin Moore offers a darker paint that still has enough colorful pop to level up your home office space.

“Bringing back color is something we are seeing strong for 2023,” House Sprucing owner and principal designer Heather Fujikawa



DREAMSTIME

While inky blacks can give your home office depth, blotches of vibrant color can give it a more cheerful personality. One of the most popular options this year is citrus.

told Veranda. “Color drenching walls in darker colors is all the rage and we love this Hale

Navy paint color by Benjamin Moore that brings the perfect hue of navy blue.”

Citrus

While inky blacks can give your home office depth,

blotches of vibrant color can give it a more cheerful personality. One of the most popular options this year is citrus.

“Small shots of big citrus bring excitement to a space without creating visual overwhelm,” interior designer Jackie Terrell told Good Housekeeping. “It’s like a punchy-colored throw pillow for the wall. When used in a specific area of wall, it defines a space and everything looks good against this yellow green. Even beige!”

Inkwell by Sherwin-Williams

Home offices are often given the smaller of the house’s bedrooms, making space a valuable commodity. Luckily, dark colors can help make the most of that home office space.

“Dark colors in smaller spaces can pack a punch and make a huge impact just

through tone and depth of paint,” Miretta Interiors’ Zandy Gammons told Elle Decor. “In this case, we created a focal point by using Inkwell, a really dark but neutral paint color. The art and other details make for a contrast that is more noticeable than if they were hung on lighter walls.”

Viva Magenta by Pantone

If you’re looking for a real punch of color, go all out with a coat of Viva Magenta by Pantone.

“If your work relies on you being creative and full of energy, then Viva Magenta, Pantone’s 2023 Color of the Year, is great for invigorating home offices and boosting your energy,” Ryan McDonough, interior design expert at Myjobquote.co.uk, told House Beautiful. “Raspberry is also a color that’s tipped to be big.”

By PAUL F.P. POGUE
Ask Angi

Spring is a lovely time to open your house and invite things in after a long, cold winter: sunshine, leafy smells, fresh air. But these good things aren’t the only visitors gearing up to drop by. Spring is also prime time for pests to find their home in your home and set themselves up for as long as possible. The combination of warm weather, moisture and homes opening up more often provide ideal cir-

cumstances for these unwanted guests to drop in. Here are some tips to keep pests from invading your space and what to do if they show up:

1. Don’t invite them in

The most effective pest control is making sure they never get close. Pests such as rodents and insects are drawn to the scent of food, and a spring home presents plenty of invitations. Keep your kitchen clean and

What should I do to stop pests?

free of scraps or random food. Keep leftovers in tightly sealed containers.

Check around your house, especially the kitchen, for potential points of entry where pests might slip in. Insects only need the tiniest of cracks to get into many places. Use a flashlight and carefully check for holes, gaps between walls or ceilings, the areas around utility lines and

vents, window and door seals, and foundation or siding gaps. Anywhere you find such holes, seal them up. Expanding foam sealant, weatherstripping and caulk are excellent solutions for many such problems.

Don’t overlook your attic or basement; these offer many good entry points for pests ranging from ants to raccoons. Copper wire mesh, avail-

able at most hardware stores, can cover up larger holes.

2. Make an unwelcome yard

Your yard presents pests and rodents with many opportunities to establish a staging area for the eventual home invasion. Make sure your yard doesn’t give them easy options. Trim all bushes and trees so branches don’t come in contact with your outer walls—those leaves and branches give them an ac-

cessible bridge to travel. Remove all sources of standing water. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as half an inch, even if it’s just a Frisbee sitting upside down next to the garage. Check carefully for such sources, and take care of them.

Clean your gutters regularly. This is already a good idea on general principle, but backed-up water, moist leaves and other debris in dirty gutters make a perfect beachhead for pests on their way into your home.

Life & Style

Illustrated Anne Frank book removed by Florida school

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A high school along Florida’s Atlantic Coast has removed a graphic novel based on the diary of Anne Frank after a leader of a conservative advocacy group challenged it, claiming it minimized the Holocaust.

“Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation” was removed from a library at Vero Beach High School after a leader of Moms for Liberty in Indian River County raised an objection. The school’s principal agreed with the objection, and the book was removed last month.

The book at one point shows the protagonist walking in a park, enchanted by female nude statues, and later proposing to a friend that they show each other their breasts. Under the school district’s policy, the principal makes the decision on a challenged book. If someone disagrees with a decision to keep the disputed book on the shelves, it can be appealed to a districtwide committee. The Anne Frank graphic novel had been checked out twice before it was removed, Cristen Maddux, a spokeswoman for the School District of Indian River County, said Monday.

Vero Beach is located 105 miles (169 kilometers) south-east of Orlando.

Other books about Anne Frank and copies of the published diary she wrote chronicling her time hiding from the Nazis with her family and other Jews in German-occupied Amsterdam remain in the school systems’ libraries.

The Jewish teenager’s diary was published in 1947, several years after she died in a concentration camp, and it has become a classic read by tens of millions of people around the world.

By law, Florida schools are required to teach about the Holocaust, and nothing has changed in that respect, Maddux said.

“The feedback that the Holocaust is being removed from the curriculum and students aren’t knowledgeable about what happened, that is not the case at all,” Maddux said. “It’s just a challenged book and the principal removed it.”

Besides the Anne Frank graphic novel, Moms for Liberty in Indian River County objected to three books in the “Assassination Classroom” series, and they also were removed.

Moms for Liberty leader Jennifer Pippin said the Anne Frank graphic novel violated state standards to teach the Holocaust accurately.

“Even her version featured the editing out of the entries about sex,” Pippin said, referring to the original diary. “Even the publisher of the book calls it a ‘biography,’ meaning, it writes its own interpretive spin. It’s not the actual work. It quotes the work, but it’s not the diary in full. It chooses to offer a different view on the subject.”

Show stopper: Singalong fans ejected, ‘Bodyguard’ is halted

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—A British performance of “The Bodyguard” musical ended in unrequited love for some audience members who couldn’t refrain from singing along to the anthemic finale.

The show at the Palace Theatre in Manchester screeched to a halt Friday when two unruly patrons were ejected for joining the lead in singing “I Will Always Love You,” the soaring, emotional ballad made famous by Whitney Houston.

It was not supposed to be a singalong. Ushers carried signs saying, “Please refrain from singing” and announcements were made in advance that patrons would have a chance to join along at the end but not to sing during the show, said Tash Kenyon, an audience member.

During the closing number, somebody shouted, “Does this mean we can start singing now?” Kenyon said. A tone-deaf voice projected from the balcony and competed with the vocals of Melody Thornton, a former member of The Pussycat Dolls.

Laughter then turned to anger and confusion, Karl Bradley told the Manchester Evening News.

“The stage then just went black again and that’s when it really started to kick off on the higher tier, you could really hear screams and audible gasps,” Bradley said. “Everyone starting standing up and looking over. There was chants of ‘out, out, out’ to get them gone.”

When the lights came up, the unwanted backup singers were being hauled out of their seats by theater security and audience members began cheering.

NEW YORK (AP)—Hilary Swank has given birth to twins—a boy and a girl.

The 48-year-old “Million Dollar Baby” actor posted a photo of her and her twins looking at the sunset on Instagram Sunday evening with the caption: “It wasn’t easy. But boy (and girl!) was it worth it.”

She added on Instagram that she’s “posting from pure heaven.” She and entrepreneur Philip Schneider have been married since 2018.

Over the course of her pregnancy, Swank had been filming her new ABC show “Alaska Daily.” She shared in an interview in October that when her pants didn’t fit during filming, she cut them open and put a jacket on to hide her bump.

“You don’t tell for 12 weeks for a certain reason. But then, like, you’re growing and you’re using the bathroom a lot and you’re eating a lot. I’m sure there’s been conversations, and when I get back to the set, father and son included Dominik Mysterio going to jail after being involved in an incident with his father during Christmas. The image of Auschwitz appeared as Dominik said in the promo “You think this is a game to me? I served hard time. And I survived.”

The storyline between match between Rey Mysterio and Dominik Mysterio on a preview show on April 1.

“We had no knowledge of what was depicted. As soon as we learned, it was removed immediately. We apologize for this error,” the WWE said in a statement.

The photo from the concentration camp in Oświęcim, Poland, where 1.1 million people were murdered by the Nazis during World War II, was replaced by stock footage of barbed wire and an empty jail cell in the promo before the match and in replays.



CHARLES SYKES/AP
Hilary Swank attends the Disney 2022 Upfront presentation at Basketball City Pier 36 on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, in New York.

Hilary Swank gives birth to twins, shares 1st photo

WWE apologizes for using Auschwitz image in preview show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—World Wrestling Entertainment apologized Friday for using an image from the Auschwitz concentration camp to promote one of its matches during the first night of WrestleMania 39 last weekend.

The image was used in a promotional package for the

Complications of rediscovered love are nothing to laugh at

DEAR ABBY: After being divorced for 18 years, I have reconnected with my high school sweetheart. She got in touch with me, and we started talking and seeing each other. She says she loves me, and to be honest, I love her, too. The problem is, she’s married. She has grown kids and is raising her 8-year-old granddaughter. She says she’s sorry about what happened to us years ago and that she and her husband have had nothing in common for the past 16 years. They sleep in separate rooms and don’t do anything as a family.

I know it was wrong to get involved with her because she’s married. I asked her why now and why me. She said it’s because she never stopped loving me and had tried to find me in the past. (I work in construction and have been in different places over the years.) I told her I don’t want to break up her home, but she insisted that she’s not happy. She told me that a few years ago she moved out but returned because of the granddaughter. We are both in our early 60s. I’m not sure what to do. I know we have fun together, and I haven’t laughed this much in a very long time. I have been with others but never like this. Help!

LONGTIME LOVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR LONGTIME LOVE: Tell your lady friend you care for her, but what’s going on isn’t fair to you or her husband. She has some important decisions to make about her future—and possibly yours. Would her husband raise the grandchild if she left? Could she take the girl with her? Do

you want to help raise the child? Unless you plan to sneak around until her granddaughter is no longer a minor, stop laughing and get serious.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 48-year-old divorced mother of one adult child and one teenager. I suffered years of abuse at the hands of my toxic ex-husband, and I’m finally enjoying life for the first time in more than 20 years. My elderly parents were also abusive, so my relationship with them is limited.

My parents think I’m going to take care of them when they can no longer care for themselves, but when my son graduates in a few years, I want to move away. I have offered to help, but they insist I should be willing to do more when the time comes. My parents are on Social Security and have little money. My only sibling is worthless and abusive as well, and I know he won’t do anything. What’s your advice?

EYE ON FUTURE IN OHIO

DEAR EYE: If your parents had children in order to guarantee they would be taken care of in their old age, they were misguided. Having children is no guarantee. That they now live on a limited income is their issue; do not allow them to make it yours.

I assume you have warned them that you will be able to give them limited financial help and that you plan to leave the area. Let your children know what has been going on. Impress

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



upon them the importance of planning for financial independence early on, and if you haven’t already, start saving for your own retirement because children often emulate what they see their parents do.

Make your parents aware that there may be programs to help them lower costs in many areas, enabling them to stretch their dollars. AARP has a state-by-state breakdown on help for low-income seniors. (Go to aarp.org and search “Public Benefits - Senior Assistance.”)

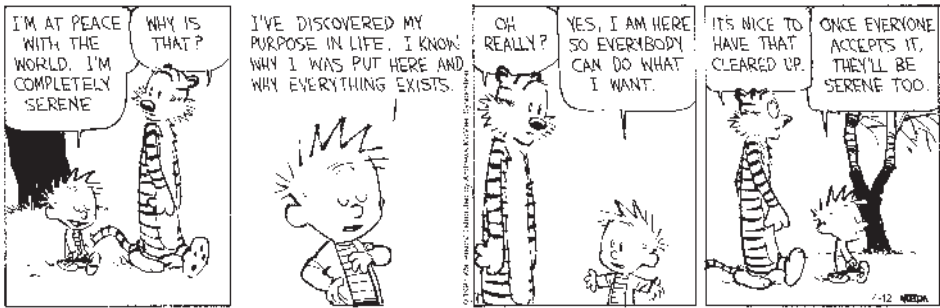
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

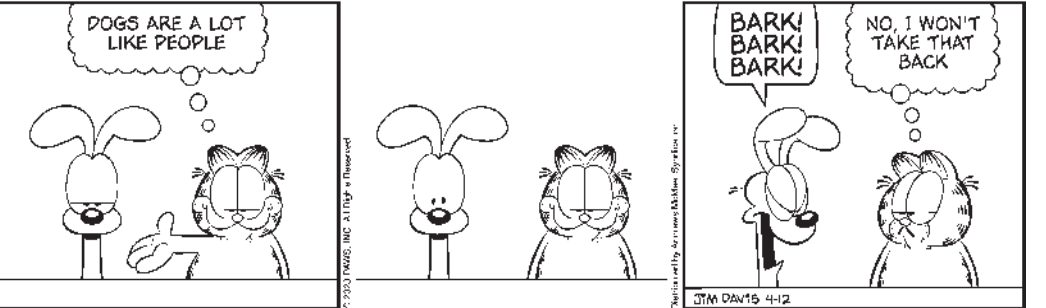
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stare stupidly

5 Night flier

8 Driver with a handle

12 Medicinal plant

13 Blunder

14 Oscar winner

15 "To Allie, from Prison" poet

17 Fine

18 Trample

19 Art props

21 Cry

22 Tart

23 Cotillion celeb

26 Pirate's chart

28 Maker of Cheez Whiz

31 Cupid's alias

33 Tank filler

35 Nobel Prize subj.

DOWN

1 Guys' dates

2 Oodles

3 Made baskets

4 Stays fresh

5 Squishy chair

6 Joan of —

7 Kilmer poem

8 Shut-down

9 Cycling contest

10 Israeli carrier

11 Sun beams

16 Appear ominously

20 Fine, to NASA

23 Actor Patel

24 Historic period

25 Type with thick strokes

27 Writer's block?

29 Sly one

30 Blaster's need

32 Origins

34 Tapas bar drink

37 Genetic letters

39 Prejudice

42 City near Tarrytown, New York

44 Spoke (up)

45 Flint-stones' pet

46 Mideast ruler

48 Director Mira

49 Beige

50 Consider

53 Rage

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Saoirse Ronan, 29; Claire Danes, 44; David Letterman, 76; Ed O'Neill, 77.

Happy Birthday: Incorporate practicality into your daily routine to avoid costly mistakes. Opportunities are plentiful this year, but making decisions is more complicated. Don't feel you have to act fast. Time is on your side and will give you the perspective you need to determine how to harness success. Slow down, gather facts and head in the direction that has the best chance of delivering your long-term plans. Your numbers are 9, 14, 23, 26, 31, 34, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a moment to dismiss emotional angst. You are better off channeling your energy into something constructive if you intend to avoid disagreements with someone who matters to you. Send a positive message if you want others to pitch in and help. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A curious mind will make an effort to learn, explore and use information to make a difference. An innovative idea will encourage you to take on an overwhelming cause. Bide your time, ask for help and protect against burnout. ☼☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Observe what's going on around you and how others respond to you. Learn from the experience and only trust what you know as factual. How you handle your financial decisions will change the template moving forward. Proceed with caution. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speed things up regarding partnerships. The sooner you make the connection, the more you'll accomplish. Share your thoughts and

opinions, and change will follow. Hard work will broaden your scope and help you set new trends. Protect your health. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Shift your focus to what's possible and put what isn't on the shelf. Trust in what you can offer and set your course to do what you do best. Distance yourself from users and those who disregard your right to be yourself. ☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change is favored. Gather knowledge, experience and insight into what will bring about positive change. A move will mark the beginning of something new and exciting. Decreasing your overhead expenses will ease stress. Be prepared to make the first move. ☼☼☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pamper yourself. A day trip, educational course or time with someone you love will offer insight into what's important to you and how to harness the joy and satisfaction you gain. Put your energy where it counts, and take responsibility for your happiness. ☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your intuition guide you when dealing with others. Partnerships can be elusive if you don't have background information. Ask questions that will help you decide if something good can transpire should you make your intentions clear. ☼☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Concentrate on finances, contracts and health, and protect against individuals more interested in what they can get, not give. Socializing is favored, but don't overspend. Look for exhilarating pastimes. Don't let anyone stifle your dreams. ☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A steady pace forward is your best bet. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your progress. Don't be tempted by someone encouraging you to take on too much or indulge financially or physically in something you cannot afford. Trust your instincts. ☼☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Push yourself, and progress will be yours. Clear a space at home that motivates you to diversify and add to your skills and knowledge. Don't let the choices others make throw you off guard or influence your direction. Pamper yourself. ☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be safe but be present. You can set up meetings and move forward with your plans, but distance yourself from anyone who is suspicious or may not have your interests at heart. Protect your health and well-being from injury or illness. ☼☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are big-hearted, innovative and spontaneous. You are helpful and sensitive.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1	6	8			3						
	7				2						9
			2	6	7						
	1			3		9	2	6			
8				2	6	7	1				
6		4	7								
	8	9	2			1	5				
		1				6					
			4	5	1		9	7			

Difficulty: ★★ ★★ 4-12
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	8	9	6	1	3	7	5
3	9	5	4	7	2	8	6	1
1	7	6	5	8	3	2	9	4
9	1	7	6	3	5	4	8	2
4	8	3	2	1	9	6	5	7
6	5	2	7	4	8	9	1	3
8	6	1	3	5	4	7	2	9
7	2	4	1	9	6	5	3	8
5	3	9	8	2	7	1	4	6

Difficulty: ★★ 4-12

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CINDY WILLIAMS (1947-2023) Solution: 6 letters

C C R S L A U G H I N A G Y S
A O O I Y L I M E N I M R Y T
N M N M C U T E A H O A A R N
N M E V E G N L T C H D F O A
A E N R E D O N T C Y E F T R
O R R N I R Y I A P L F I S G
J C E O A C S A S P V A A T A I
I I V C L F A A S C N Z I R M
M A A F A E H N T H D I O M L
E L L T O U S R A I I O N Y E
D S H G D L E G N A O R E N G
I E N S O S G N I W N N L N A
R I O V S G N I L A E T S E C
B N E N A J Z I S E S O R P Y
T S E G G I B E F R I E N D S

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Actress, American, Angel, Army, Biggest, Bingo, Bride, Canaan, Carol Ann, Comedy, Commercials, Conversation, Cute, Cynthia, DeFazio, Emily, Fan, Father, Feeney, Friends, Graffiti, Happy Days, Hudson, Jane, Jim, Joanna, Land, Laugh In, Laverne, Legacy, Love, Migrants, Penny, Ricco, Roles, Roses, Shirley, Sitcom, Stealing, Story, Van Nuys, Wings, Zachary

Yesterday's Answer: Flavor
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

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Unbeaten Rays making some early history with dominant start



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays became the first major league team since the 1987 Milwaukee Brewers to open the season with 10 straight wins, getting a solo homer from Brandon Lowe in the eighth inning to beat the Boston Red Sox 1-0 on Monday night.

The 1987 Brewers and 1982 Atlanta Braves share the major league record for the best start to a season at 13-0. The Rays are the seventh team since 1901 to begin the year with 10 or more wins.

"It's cool to be part of it," right fielder Luke Raley said,

Lowe homered for the third straight game, sending a 3-2, one-out pitch from Chris Martin (0-1) into the right-field stands. Lowe has nine RBIs over his last three games.

"This is the first night where it's kind of quiet offensively," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "I kind of felt like at any given moment somebody could knock one out of the ballpark. Probably the right guy with Brandon."

Tampa Bay has outscored its opponents 76-18.

In a matchup of the AL's top two scoring teams, pitching and defense prevailed. This was the Rays' first win by fewer than four runs as Tampa Bay fell one short of the 1939 New York Yankees, the most recent team to win 10 consecutive games by four or more at any point in a season.

Tampa Bay opener Jalen Beeks allowed one hit over two innings, and Josh Fleming gave up one hit over the next four. After Garrett Cleavinger worked a perfect seventh, Colin Poche (1-0) worked out of bases-loaded, two-jam in the eighth by striking out Rafael Devers.

"He made some good pitches and got Rafie out," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "They pitched well, we pitched well. There was good defense. Obviously we didn't win the game but as far as the game, it was great."

Pete Fairbanks completed the three-hitter and got his first save.

Red Sox starter Nick Pivetta gave up three hits in five scoreless innings. Josh Winckowski allowed one hit in two innings.

The Rays were coming off consecutive 11-0 wins over Oakland in which the Athletics were limited to four hits overall. Boston had a three-game weekend sweep over Detroit in which the Red Sox



Tampa Bay Rays second baseman Brandon Lowe, left, celebrates with relief pitcher Pete Fairbanks after the team defeated the Boston Red Sox during a baseball game Monday, April 10, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

outscored the Tigers 24-9.

This is the first time Tampa Bay has recorded three consecutive shutouts. The Rays have won 10 straight home games against Boston.

Boston center fielder Rob Refsnyder, one of several players who will be filling in for the injured Adam Duvall, saved a pair of runs with a sliding catch on the warning track that took away an extra-base hit from Randy Arozarena in the third.

Duvall, hurt attempting a diving catch on Sunday, was placed on the 10-day injured list before the game with a fractured left wrist. Cora said Duvall will not need surgery and the wrist will be placed in a cast. There is no timetable for his return.

Bobby Dalbec, recalled from Triple-A Worcester to take Duvall's roster spot, had a pinch-hit single in the eighth.

RANGERS 11, ROYALS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Andrew Heaney tied an AL record by striking out nine consecutive batters, Adolis Garcia hit a grand slam and Texas routed Kansas City.

Heaney (1-1) began the streak by fanning Matt Duffy and Nicky Lopez to end the first inning, then struck out the side in the second and third innings. After Salvador Perez went down swinging leading off the fourth, Duffy ended the streak with a fly-out to right field.

Heaney threw 93 pitches and left after five innings, allowing two runs—one earned—on two hits. He matched a record shared by Detroit reliever Tyler Alexander against Cincinnati on Aug.

2, 2020, and Detroit reliever Doug Fister against Kansas City on Sept. 27, 2012.

Garcia's slam capped a seven-run sixth inning and snapped his 0-for-16 slump. Corey Seager and Jonah Heim also homered off Royals right-hander Zack Greinke (0-3).

METS 5, PADRES 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Max Scherzer shut down San Diego for five innings, rebounding from his postseason flop last year, and New York won the playoff rematch.

Jeff McNeil and Francisco Lindor each laced a two-run double as the Mets finally beat Yu Darvish (0-1) for the first time. Eduardo Escobar added a sacrifice fly, and four relievers finished a two-hitter.

A clean single by Ha-Seong Kim off Scherzer (2-1) with one out in the fifth was San Diego's only hit until the ninth. The three-time Cy Young Award winner struck out six and walked three.

Darvish was charged with five runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings.

GUARDIANS 3, YANKEES 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber shook off a rough first inning to pitch seven, and Josh Naylor hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly to lift Cleveland past New York.

Bieber (1-0) gave up two runs and three hits to New York's first four batters. But he settled in and retired 17 of 18 in one stretch. He allowed two runs and five hits.

Naylor put the Guardians up 3-2 in the seventh when his liner off Ian Hamilton (0-1) scored Steven Kwan.

Emmanuel Clase worked

the ninth for his third save.

BRAVES 5, REDS 4, 10 INNINGS

ATLANTA (AP)—Sean Murphy hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning and Atlanta recovered after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth to beat Cincinnati.

Murphy blasted the first pitch from Derek Law (0-2) to center field for his third hit of the game, driving in designated runner Austin Riley. Atlanta snapped a three-game skid.

Jonathan India opened the 10th inning for the Reds with a single to right field off Dylan Lee (1-0), driving in designated runner Jose Barreto for a 4-3 lead.

Braves fill-in closer A.J. Minter blew a 3-1 lead in the ninth, wasting a strong start by rookie Bryce Elder, who allowed six hits in 6 1/3 innings and departed with a 1-0 lead.

PHILLIES 15, MARLINS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Alec Bohm homered and had six RBIs and Philadelphia tagged NL Cy Young Award winner Sandy Alcantara for nine runs.

Brandon Marsh and Jake Cave added solo homers. The Phillies pounded out 20 hits.

Alcantara (1-1) allowed five runs in the third inning and four more in the fifth. Miami's ace didn't give up more than six runs in a game in 32 starts last season.

Matt Strahm (1-0) struck out six in five scoreless innings.

DODGERS 9, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Max Muncy hit a grand slam and a three-run drive for his

10th career multihomer game as Los Angeles beat San Francisco.

Muncy's seven RBIs were a career high. Mookie Betts led off the game with a homer for the Dodgers, who ended a three-game skid.

Julio Urias (3-0) struck out eight, walked two and allowed one run on four hits over six innings. Giants ace Logan Webb (0-3) struck out six over six innings.

CUBS 3, MARINERS 2, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Nico Hoerner's soft single off Matt Brash with one out in the 10th inning scored pinch-runner Nick Madrigal and gave Chicago the win over Seattle.

Madrigal was inserted as a pinch-runner and stole third off Brash (0-1), setting up Hoerner's winning hit. Keegan Thompson (1-0) had worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the 10th.

The Cubs were two outs away from a win in regulation when the Mariners' Jarred Kelenic launched a home run off closer Michael Fulmer that struck the right-field message board.

ASTROS 8, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Yordan Alvarez had three hits and boosted his RBI total to a major-league-leading 16 by driving in two runs as Houston beat Pittsburgh.

Kyle Tucker added two hits and drove in three runs for the Astros. Maruicio Dubón singled three times to extend his hitting streak to a career-best six games.

Framber Valdez (1-1) allowed two runs in seven innings as Houston won consecutive games for the second time this season.

Roansy Contreras (1-1) gave up seven runs—tied for a career-worst—in 3 1/3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, BREWERS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen struck out 11 over seven innings, Christian Walker smacked a two-run homer and Arizona beat Milwaukee.

Nick Ahmed had three hits while Ketel Marte added two for the D-backs, who have won four straight.

Gallen (1-1) gave up three hits and a walk. Scott McGough threw a scoreless eighth and Andrew Chafin completed the three-hitter for his second save. The Brewers struck out 15 times.

Wade Miley (1-1) gave up three runs on five hits over five innings.

ROCKIES 7, CARDINALS 4

DENVER (AP)—Germán Márquez pitched five strong

innings before leaving with tightness in his right forearm, Alan Trejo tied a career high with three hits and Colorado beat St. Louis.

Márquez (2-1) was warming up for the sixth inning when he began rubbing his forearm as manager Bud Black and the trainers gathered around him. He allowed two runs and struck out four.

Steven Matz (0-2) struggled for a second straight start, allowing six runs and nine hits over 5 2/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 4, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Hanser Alberto hit a three-run homer and Chicago's Dylan Cease had another strong outing against Minnesota.

Yasmani Grandal had two hits and drove in the other run for the White Sox, who had to remove shortstop Tim Anderson in the sixth inning with left knee soreness after he collided with a baserunner.

Cease (2-0) allowed three runs, one earned, in five innings. The Twins were scoreless in 16 innings in two games against Cease last season.

Kenta Maeda (0-2) surrendered four runs on eight hits in six innings for Minnesota.

ORIOLES 5, ATHLETICS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adley Rutschman homered for the second straight game and Kyle Gibson earned his third victory in as many starts with Baltimore.

Ryan Mountcastle hit a two-run shot to left-center in the first inning off JP Sears (0-1). Austin Hays also went deep for the Orioles.

Oakland has lost five in a row and fell to a majors-worst 2-8, matching its worst start since 2010.

Gibson (3-0) allowed five hits and a run in 6 1/3 innings.

NATIONALS 6, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Jeimer Candelario and CJ Abrams drove in two runs apiece, and Washington pounded out 14 hits to beat Los Angeles.

Every batter in the starting lineup got a hit for the Nationals, who won for the third time in four games.

Hunter Renfroe homered in his third straight game and Luis Rengifo had an early two-run double for the Angels, who lost back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Patrick Corbin (1-2) pitched five innings of seven-hit ball for Washington, yielding four runs. Kyle Finnegan pitched the ninth for his second save.

Los Angeles reliever Tucker Davidson (0-1) took the loss.

Inside the NBA numbers: A look at the season's stats

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Scoring was up in the NBA this season, to a level not seen in more than a half-century.

NBA teams averaged 114.7 points per game. That's the ninth-highest figure in the league's 77 seasons and the most since teams averaged 116.7 per game in 1969-70.

It represents a jump of 3.7% over last season.

A record 282,127 points were scored this season, smashing the previous mark of 273,573 set in 2018-19.

FREE THROW RECORD

The NBA has never had a better season from the foul line. Again.

The league-wide record for accuracy fell for the third time in the last four seasons. Teams combined to shoot 78.2% from the line this season.

That topped the 77.8% mark from two seasons ago. And while that difference—a mere 0.4%—doesn't look like much, it is. NBA teams could have combined to miss their first 200 free throws on Sunday when the regular season was ending and still have been on pace to set a season record.

A BOSTON FIRST

When you've done something that's never been done before in Boston Celtics history, that's impressive.

So, take a bow, Jayson Tatum.

The forward averaged 30.1 points per game this season—the most ever by a Celtics player. John Havlicek and Isaiah Thomas each averaged 28.9 in their best seasons in Boston, and Larry Bird averaged 29.9 in

1987-88, but Tatum is the first to average 30.

Bird technically averaged 29.93 points that season, and two more points would have given him 29.95, which many would have rounded up to 30.0. He was five points shy that season of averaging exactly 30 per game.

BRIDGES' STREAK

Brooklyn's Mikal Bridges technically missed a game this season, but his consecutive games-played streak—now 392 games and counting—lives on because he wasn't eligible to play while the Nets were completing the process of acquiring him in a trade with the Phoenix Suns.

Regardless, he still played in a league-best 83 games this season. It's quirky, since a season is 82 games, but the Nets had more games to play than the Suns did when the trade happened. And it lived on in Sunday's season finale because Bridges appeared for the first 4 seconds to extend the streak, then checked out for the day.

Bridges didn't miss a game at Villanova, either. His last missed game was in high school.

Bridges is the first player to appear in 83 games in a season since Josh Smith in 2014-15. Bridges was one of 10 players to not miss a game this season—Houston's Tari Eason and Kenyon Martin Jr., Chicago's Nikola Vucevic and Patrick Williams, Boston's Derrick White, Golden State teammates Kevon Looney and Jordan Poole, New York's Isaiah Hartenstein and Sacramento's Harrison Barnes also played in all 82 for their clubs this season.

The NBA's all-time record for games in a season probably



AP
Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum, right, and Derrick White react during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors, Friday, April 7, 2023, in Boston.

is one of those records that'll never be broken. Walt Bellamy played in 88 games in 1968-69—35 with New York, then 53 with Detroit.

SCORING MARGIN

San Antonio was outscored by just over 10 points per game this season—the worst margin in Spurs history.

It was the 20th time in NBA history that a team had been outscored, on average, by double digits for an entire season.

3's DOWN

For nine straight seasons—2012-13 through 2020-21—the NBA saw a record set annually for 3-pointers made per game.

It seems the growth era from beyond the arc has plateaued.

For the second consecutive year, 3-pointers made dropped this season, albeit slightly. The league saw an average of 24.7 3s per game this season, down from 24.9 per game last season and the record 25.4 per game in 2020-21.

The league finished the regular season with 30,359

3s made—just off the record total of 30,598 last season. But teams also attempted, on average, about 3% fewer 3-pointers this season than they did a year ago.

3's UP

That said, there were more highly prolific 3-point shooters this season than ever before. The league finished with 20 players with at least 200 3-pointers—the most ever, just ahead of the 18 who made at least 200 3s last season.

The 20 in the 200 Club this year: Golden State's Klay Thompson, Indiana's Buddy Hield, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell, Portland's Damian Lillard, Boston's Jayson Tatum, Brooklyn's Malik Beasley, New York's Julius Randle, Dallas' Tim Hardaway Jr., Portland's Anfernee Simons, New Orleans' CJ McCollum, Golden State's Jordan Poole, Toronto's Fred VanVleet, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Sacramento's Keegan Murray, Miami's Tyler Herro, Sacramento's Kevin Huerter,

Chicago's Zach LaVine, New Orleans' Trey Murphy III and Utah's Lauri Markkanen.

AND 3's RECORDS

The Warriors finished with 1,363 3-pointers as a team, the most by any team in an NBA season. The previous record was 1,323 by the 2018-19 Houston Rockets.

Four of the six most prolific 3-point seasons in NBA history happened this season: The Warriors broke the record for a team, Boston (1,315) finished eight behind Houston's 2018-19 mark, Dallas (1,246) made the fifth-most in a season and Milwaukee (1,217) made the sixth-most in a season.

Golden State, Boston, Dallas and Milwaukee obviously also set their franchise single-season record for total 3s made. So did Brooklyn, Indiana, the Los Angeles Clippers, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Sacramento.

BETTING STATS

Those who bet the Oklahoma City Thunder all season long

probably did quite well.

The Thunder covered the spread a league-best 58.5% of the time this season, just ahead of Orlando and Philadelphia (57.3%).

The Los Angeles Lakers were a perfect 50% against the spread—41 times covering, 41 times not.

Dallas and San Antonio bettors likely weren't happy. Those clubs both covered only 39% of the time, just a bit worse than Miami and Detroit (both 40.5%).

ONE OF EACH

Golden State's 56-point win over Portland on Sunday was the biggest of the season. The biggest rout going into the season's final day was a 45-point win by New Orleans on Nov. 21—against the Warriors.

That made the Warriors the first team since the 1997-98 Trail Blazers to win a game by at least 45, and lose a game by at least 45, in the same season.

Portland beat Dallas 120-75 on Nov. 17, 1998, a 45-point win. The Blazers lost to Indiana 124-59 on Feb. 27, 1998, a 65-point loss.

ATTENDANCE

As Commissioner Adam Silver suggested would be the case last month, attendance records were set this season.

The league announced Monday that the total attendance figure for the season was 22,234,502. That's just a bit over the mark of 22,124,559 set in the 2017-18 season.

There were 791 games classified as sellouts, another record, topping the 760 in 2018-19. And average attendance per game—18,077—was another record, with the league playing to 97% capacity.

MIAMI (AP)—This story would never have been told if Udonis Haslem's mother hadn't moved from Miami to Jacksonville. Or if his stepbrother hadn't been so smart about an airball. Or if Atlanta signed him in 2002. Or if San Antonio did in 2003.

Any of those things happen differently, it all changes. He probably wouldn't be with the Miami Heat right now. Maybe never.

Haslem, the NBA's oldest active player at 42 and a three-time champion, is in the final days with his hometown team. He's the third player to spend a two-decade career with one franchise, joining Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant.

"All I've ever tried to do is take care of my people, take care of my city," Haslem said. "I think that's why I can sit down with the mayor and commissioners, or I can sit down with people in the 'hood, and

Udonis Haslem, Heat reflect on rare 20-year NBA career

be comfortable either way. It's because of the sacrifices that I've made for this city."

Heat President Pat Riley is more succinct.

"Udonis is Miami," Riley said.

Haslem was on the NBA's All-Rookie team in 2003-04. He never was an All-Star, never Ail-NBA, never even a player of the week out of 438 possible chances. The last time he averaged double figures for a season was 2009.

But ask anyone with the Heat, and they insist Haslem—the team captain who'll have his No. 40 jersey retired next season—has been vital for two decades.

"He's the poster child of a guy who was average, supposedly, and yet he became great," said Chet Kammerer, who has spent 27 years in Miami's player personnel department. "And how did he do that? Hard

work. Great spirit. Great attitude. Never 'can't do this,' never 'can't do that.' And the success that we've had, he's had more of a major contribution over the whole 20 years than people know."

Take the night Miami won its first NBA title in Dallas in 2006. Haslem played with a separated shoulder. He had to guard Nowitzki, the Mavericks' best player. Nowitzki didn't have a field goal in the fourth quarter; Miami won 95-92, Haslem had 17 points, 10 rebounds and a good cry afterward.

"The champagne got me," he said. Everyone knows otherwise; they were tears.

Other players got headlines that night; Dwyane Wade was Finals MVP, Shaquille O'Neal won his fourth ring. But without Haslem, there would be no title.

"He's always had tremen-

dous courage," Riley said. "Whatever endeavor, he rises to another level. And you need that. He was for real. He was that kind of man, someone who has tremendous pride being from Miami."

Many Miami kids grow up with football dreams. Haslem was one of them. But when his mother took a job in Jacksonville when he was 9, focus began shifting to basketball. ("Football isn't as big there," Haslem said.) When he was around 12, Haslem was on the court with his older stepbrother, Sam Wooten. Haslem shot an airball. Wooten caught the ball and scored.

"Nice pass," Wooten said, genuinely. He, and that moment, had tremendous impact on Haslem; Wooten died in 1999 from cancer and Haslem has a "R.I.P. Sam" tattoo on his neck to pay tribute to his mentor.

Haslem had backboard-breaking dunks as a high school freshman, starred at Miami High, then starred at Florida but struggled with weight and NBA teams passed on drafting him in 2002. Atlanta brought him in for a camp that summer, but signed Ira Newble to its last roster spot instead.

So Haslem played in France, dropping the extra weight by eating only turkey sandwiches. The next summer, he was offered a one-year contract by the Spurs.

"We couldn't lose him," Kammerer said.

The Heat offered two years. Haslem signed. He never left. He had multiple chances, often for more money. But he stayed and will remain with the organization in a to-be-determined role; Haslem wants a chance to join the ownership group.

"He's monumentally important for our organization

and our locker room," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He embodies everything that we believe in. And he has a way, because of the respect level, that he's able to influence and mentor literally every player in the locker room."

There are many stories of Haslem's toughness. He'd dislocate fingers in practice and pop them back in like nothing happened. People still talk about his hard foul on Indiana's Tyler Hansbrough in the 2012 playoffs, after the Pacers caused him to get eight stitches the game before and Hansbrough had just sent Wade flying. He often is the one giving impassioned locker-room speeches at halftime, even before Spoelstra gets a chance. The wall outside Miami's locker room is now a tribute to Haslem moments.

He's not Miami's best player. It could be argued nobody has meant more.

"There's nobody else like him," Spoelstra said.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CNMI bodybuilders have more to look forward to this year as the Dee

Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships is set for June 10 at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

The show starts at 5pm and tickets are \$30.

Winners will then represent the CNMI and advance to the NPC Guam National Bodybuilding Championships on June 24 at the Sheraton Laguna in Guam.

These qualifiers then set the stage for the CNMI National Bodybuilding Team for the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2.

For the Dee Clayton Classic, the categories are body-

Bodybuilding competition set for June 10



LEIGH GASES

Competitors of the 2022 DC Classic and CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships pose for a photo after the competition. This year's competition is set for June 10 and will set the stage for athletes to represent CNMI in the NPC Guam National Bodybuilding Championships and in the 2023 Pacific Games this November.

building, teen bodybuilding, men's classic physique, men's physique, master's physique, teen physique, women's classic physique,

figure, bikini, teen bikini, fitness pageant, teen fitness pageant, fitness performance, wellness, and mixed pair.

Dee Clayton, president of the DC Classic, is looking at tentatively getting eight males and six females into the bodybuilding team and

that they already have at least four official coaches who have volunteered to coach for the upcoming Games.

She said she is looking for-

ward to the last bodybuilding qualifying competition for those who want to compete for fun and for those who want to try to make the cut for the national team.

Last November's championship saw 21 competitors and in this June competition, Clayton thinks there will be more as they vie for a spot on the CNMI team to represent at the Pacific Games.

Sponsors of the event are Megabyte of Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Gold's Gym, Latte Built Gym, Saipan World Resort Taga Hall, Rozelle Printing, Top Notch, Power 99, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Foremost, Island Touch by Philip, and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Guam), Inc.

For more information, contact Clayton at (670) 285-6112.

LAKAY

From Page 20

Mejarito jumper gave Lakay more breathing room, 68-63,

time down to 56 seconds.

Mejarito would score one more time and Lizama would swoosh a free throw to end hostilities.

Kim led all scorers with 19 points with Poksu and Escano adding 9 points apiece for the now 2-3 Lakay. Camacho fired 18 markers in the loss with

Mike Aparte supporting him with 11 of his own for Checkpoint International, which is still winless in four games.

In the second game, Martech Ol'Aces played complacently in the fourth quarter before pulling off a 72-70 win over Susan's Catering.

The league-leading and undefeated Ol'Aces cruised in the first 30 minutes of the game, leading 19-13, 45-35, and 57-48 after each quarter.

But Susan's Catering served up a monster of a comeback in the final quarter and the outcome of the game wasn't decided until John Genese's 3-point attempt following a steal misfired as the final buzzer sounded.

Douglas "Spider" Schmidt

led Ol'Aces with 19 points with Freddie Pelisamen and Kelvin Fitial chipping in 14 and 11 points, respectively, as they improved to 3-0.

Susan's Catering, which dropped to 1-3, was paced by the 22 points of Joseph Torres while comebacking Matt Duenas added 14.

Games in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League were canceled by bad weather last Saturday after having no schedule last Friday in observance of Good Friday.

First Game

Lakay 71 – Kim 19, Poksu 9, Escano 9, Lizama 8, Mejarito 6, Malinay 5, Sablan 5, Mendiola 4, Moises 3, Toribio

3, Babares 2.

Checkpoint International 65 – A. Camacho 18, Aparte 11, Ramos 9, Lumen 8, Lazatin 6, Bongalon 6, G. Camacho 4, Agustin 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-19, 35-34, 52-47, 71-65.

Second Game

Martech Ol'Aces 72 – Schmidt 19, Pelisamen 14, Fitial 11, P. Basa 6, Kabiriel 6, Soani 4, Diaz 3, Rangamar 3, Onopwy 2, T. Basa 2, Barcinas 2.

Susan's Catering 70 – Torres 22, Duenas 14, Bernardo 10, Padayao 9, Agustin 5, Solis 2, Gariguez 2, Ramos 2, Capalad 2, Genese 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 45-35, 57-48, 72-70.



MARK RABAGO

Checkpoint International's Gab Camacho shoots over John Mejarito in their open division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

KWON

From Page 20

neys, with the former topping the SIS and Coconut Classic. Yutaka Kadokura is third with 1,950 points.

Lina Tsukagoshi maintains her pole position in the girls 14 with 2,200 points after winning the Bridge Capital and third-place finishes in the Tan Holdings and SIS tourneys. Anne Lee and Hannah Chae

are tied at second with 1,750 points with each winning the Tan Holdings and SIS competitions.

In the boys 12, Jinho Cody Park rules the roost with 3,300 points built around championships in the Tan Holdings and SIS tourneys. Michael Jeon and Hao Yang Song are tied at second and third with 2,750 points apiece.

Emma Lang leads the girls 12 with 3,300 following a win in the Bridge Capital tourney.

She's closely followed by SIS age group winner Vivian Tan Holdings and SIS competitions. Jenna Pascual at third with 2,500 points so far.

Seungwoo Lee, Cooper Koning-Fong, and Jackson Koning-Fong are the Top 3 in the boys 10 with 1,000 points, 750 points, and 600 points, respectively.

The rankings of the adult division will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

MRA

From Page 20

veterans and young up-and-comers. They have been practicing tirelessly and strengthening their stamina to compete at this high level. Their confidence, superior skills, and training will be a force to be reckoned with.

"It's an honor for MRA to have the opportunity to showcase in front of the world the talent and skills of our CNMI racers amongst a diverse audience and international racers," said Cepeda. "We have seen how hard these racers have been working to prepare for this event, and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them as they race for the top spot."

MRA is committed to promote safe and competitive racing events to our local communities, and firmly believe that motorsport is

a powerful tool of healthy competition, building camaraderie, and creating lasting memories.

A huge turnout of motorsport enthusiasts, both local and regional, are expected at the 40th Smokin' Wheels event which will be held on April 21, 22, and 23, 2023 at the Guam International Raceway.

Fans will witness the excitement and adrenaline rush of motorsports. Many families of MRA racers will also be traveling to Guam to support and cheer CNMI racers. Despite the fierce competition, MRA looks forward to forging new relationships and friendships with fellow racers and fans.

The support from APL and Monster Energy Drinks enabled the successful organization of Smokin' Wheels, which was designed to bring together motorsport enthusiasts, promote safe driving,

and celebrate the fast-paced culture of racing. An amazing event that would not have been made possible without our sponsors' and their generous support.

MRA is beyond grateful to APL, Monster Energy, Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc., Seabridge, CTSI, Commonwealth Racing Federation, and the Marianas Visitors Authority for their unwavering support and look forward to continuing working relationships in future motorsport events.

MRA expresses sincere gratitude to Jeff Rios and the Guam International Racing Motorcycle Association for their hospitality and support; extending an invitation for the chance to race alongside some of the best racers in the Pacific region; and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. (PR)



Unbeaten Rays
making some
early history with
dominant start
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Bodybuilding
competition set
for June 10
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20 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lakay survives Checkpoint Int'l

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lakay allowed Checkpoint International to paint the town red in the first quarter before outlasting them in the end-game, 71-65, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Checkpoint International used a Ruy Lopez opening to surprise Lakay in the first six minutes of the ballgame where they led by a wide margin before settling for a 19-15 lead.

Lakay turned things around with forward Tony Kim at the helm as they took control of the match to hold a candlestick 35-34 spread at the half.

Pete Lizama heated up in

the third as his teammates took care of defense to give Lakay more wiggle room, 52-47, going into the fourth and final quarter.

Lakay appeared headed to an easy win as they enjoyed several double-digit leads in the fourth until a scorching late-game

Checkpoint International rally made things interesting.

Two face throws by

mos trimmed Lakay's lead, 65-60, with 3 minutes and change remaining.

Both teams would go scoreless the next few plays before high-flying Austin Sablan made it a 2-point game, 63-65, when he completed a 3-point play with 1:14 left on the clock.

Chinese Poksu was then fouled by Camacho in the next play and he made 1 of 2 from the stripe before a John

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MARK RABAGO
Pete Lizama drives against Checkpoint International's Austin Camacho and Mike Aparte (partly hidden) in their open division game in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



Kwon, Wang are top junior netters



Wang



Kwon

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David Kwon and Hoo Wang are the No. 1 players in the junior tennis rankings of the 2022-2023 Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

Kwon continues to lead the boys 18 with 1,250 points after winning the same age group in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic earlier in the season for 1,000 points and advancing to the semis of the men's open of the recent Bridge Capital Tennis Classic for 250 points.

Second in the boys 18 Wataru Kadokura is 750 points, followed by Daniel Kang with 600 points.

Wang, meanwhile, currently tops the girls 16 with wins in the Tan Holdings and Coconut Classic Tennis tournaments plus runner-up finishes in the SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament and Bridge Capital Tennis Classic for a whopping 3,500 points.

She is followed in the age group by Anne Lee and Irin Chung with 3,100 and 2,500 points, respectively. Lee's claim to fame is winning the SIS tourney, while Chung topped the Bridge Capital

competition.

In the girls 18, Yebin Shin, Seiyul Hong, and Seohee Lee are 1-2-3 with 1,000 points, 750 points, and 600 points, respectively.

June Yu, meanwhile, leads it over in the boys 16 with 2,750 points across his name. Siwoo Lee and Henry Choi closely follow Yu with 2,400 points and 2,300 points, respectively.

In the boys 14, Nason Wessel and Siwoo Lee are tied with 2,750 points after splitting the first four tournaments of the year. The latter has won the Tan Holdings and Bridge Capital tour-

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The Marianas Racing Association will be sending a group of 28 of its finest racers to represent the CNMI at the Smokin' Wheels race event in Guam this month.

"The Smokin' Wheels event is one of the most significant motocross events in the region, and we are thrilled to



have a strong representation from the CNMI," said MRA president Charles V. Cepeda.

Guam International Racing Motorcycle Association president Jeff Rios extended an invitation to MRA to race in the 40th APL Smokin' Wheels, Guam's premier motor sport event.

MRA's 28 racers along

MRA riders off to Smokin'Wheels

with top racers from Guam, the U.S., Japan, and New Zealand will go head-to-head to be crowned top racer in the different race categories.

This group of 28 dedicated and passionate racers are ready to show the world what they can do. They are a mixture of experienced

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Racing Association has loaded up their bikes inside a shipping container bound for Guam's Smokin' Wheels racing event later this month.

